



Understanding The Victims' Bill of Rights

(updated July, 2005)

A List of the Most Serious Crimes

If you are a victim of a serious crime, The *Victims' Bill of Rights* makes sure that you can ask for help and get information. Victims of the criminal acts listed below have the right to register to be given information and services:

- murder
- manslaughter
- aggravated sexual assault
- sexual assault with a weapon
- infanticide
- workplace fatalities
- criminal negligence causing death
- impaired operation of a vehicle causing death
- dangerous operation of a vehicle causing death
- aggravated assault
- assaulting a peace officer or public officer
- discharging a firearm with intent
- attempted murder
- parent or guardian procuring sexual activity
- corrupting children
- living off the avails of a prostitute under 18
- procuring a prostitute under 18
- an offence under *The Highway Traffic Act* that relates to the death of a person
- criminal harassment

Ask about the series of eight *Victims' Bill of Rights* fact sheets produced by Manitoba Justice.

For more information, call toll free: 1-866-484-2846 or go to the Manitoba Justice website: www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/victimsindex.html.

Explanation of Legal Terms

Here is a list of other words that might be used to provide information about your case.

Affirm an oath – promise to tell the truth about what you say in court

Accused – the person charged with the crime

Alternative measures – ways for the accused to be punished other than by going to court

Appeal – ask a higher court to see whether the accused's trial or sentence was fair

Bail – letting the accused out of jail while waiting for the case to go to court

Bail conditions – special rules the accused must follow if he or she is released from jail while waiting for the case to go to court

Charge – based on police investigation, a person is accused of committing a crime

Community service – unpaid work that an offender is ordered to do by the court as part of his or her sentence

Compensation – money the government might pay for services or things you need because you were hurt

Conditions – special rules that the accused must follow

Confidential – information that is kept private and will not be given to strangers

Corrections Division – the area of government that deals with accused people when they agree they are guilty or when they have been found guilty by a judge or jury

Counselling – talking to someone who can help you get through a hard time

Court – a room or building where cases are held

Court clerk – someone who helps the judge in the courtroom

Court records – documented information about your case that may include any orders made by the judge

Crime victim services worker – someone who helps victims get help and information about the case

Custody – keeping the accused in jail

Evidence – things that people say in court or things that are brought into court (such as clothing) to show what happened

Extrajudicial – actions taking place outside the judicial system

Fine – paying money

Guilty – the accused is convicted of or admits he or she committed a crime

Occurrence number – the special number police use to keep track of each case

Interpreter – someone who helps explain what you say to the people in court or helps explain what is said to you in court

Investigate – the police find out what happened to you

Judge – the person in court who is in charge of deciding if the accused is guilty or not guilty of a crime after a trial

Jury – in a jury trial, this group of people is in charge of deciding if the accused is guilty or innocent of a crime

Not criminally responsible – when the accused doesn't understand that what he or she did was wrong

Not guilty – the accused does not agree that he or she did something wrong (did not commit the crime)

Pleads – when the accused tells the judge, in court, if he or she is guilty or innocent of the crime in court

Pre-sentence report – information written about the offender to help the judge decide on the sentence

Probation – when the accused is not sentenced to go to jail but instead has to obey certain rules in the community as part of the sentence

Registering – telephoning or filling out a form to get help and information about the case

Released – letting the accused out of jail

Release conditions – special rules that the accused must follow when not in jail

Restitution – an order by a judge telling the accused to pay the victim back for damage done

Sentenced – what happens to the accused if he or she pleads guilty or is found guilty of a crime

Stay – To stay a charge means the charge will not go to court because there is not enough evidence

Subpoena – a special notice delivered to witnesses telling them when to be in court

Swear an oath – promise to tell the truth about what you say in court

Testify – telling the judge and/or jury about what happened and answering questions

Trial – when the accused goes to court to see if the Crown attorney can prove that he or she is guilty of a crime

Unfit to stand trial – when the accused cannot understand what the trial is about and what might happen

Victim – the person who has had a crime committed against them, or their surviving family members

Victim impact statement – a form filled out by the victim that tells the judge how being a victim has made you feel

Witness – a person who gives his or her information about the case in court