

Declaration of Principles Respecting the Treatment of Victims of Crime

On December 1, 2006, Saskatchewan's *Victims of Crime Act, 1995* was updated to include principles intended to promote fair treatment of victims of crime.

The Act includes the following Declaration:

“In accordance with prevailing laws, persons working within the justice system shall act in accordance with the following principles respecting the treatment of victims:

- victims of crime should be treated with courtesy, compassion and respect;
- the privacy of victims should be considered and respected to the greatest extent possible;
- all reasonable measures should be taken to minimize inconvenience to victims;
- the safety and security of victims should be considered at all stages of the criminal justice process and appropriate measures should be taken when necessary to protect victims from intimidation and retaliation;
- information should be provided to victims about the criminal justice system and the victim's role and opportunities to participate in criminal justice processes;
- information should be provided to victims, in accordance with prevailing policies and procedures, about the status of the investigation, the scheduling, progress and final outcome of the proceedings and the status of the offender in the correctional system;
- information should be provided to victims about available victim assistance services and programs, including information respecting the ability of a victim to obtain financial reparation;
- the views, concerns and representations of victims are an important consideration in criminal justice processes and should be considered in accordance with prevailing policies and procedures;
- the needs, concerns and diversity, including cultural diversity, of victims should be considered in the development and delivery of programs and services and in related education and training;
- information should be provided to victims about available options to raise their concerns when they believe that these principles have not been followed”.

Saskatchewan's Declaration of Principles is based on “Canada's Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime 2003.”