
VICTIM SERVICES

Helping Victims
of Crime
in Newfoundland & Labrador

VICTIM SERVICES

Victim Services is a program offered through the Department of Justice which aims to help persons who have been victims of criminal offences. The services focus mostly on victims of violent crimes. Help is provided through a network of ten regional offices throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

If you have been a victim of crime, Victim Services can provide support and professional help if you are going through or considering going through the criminal justice system. Often victims have said they felt alone and afraid when they became involved in the criminal justice system because there were few services to meet their special needs and concerns. Victim Services aims to provide new supports and services to victims involved in the criminal justice system and is not meant to replace or copy other services which already exist.

While the whole criminal justice system can be intimidating, you may find it helpful to get information about your rights and the kind of help that is available. It may be useful to find out how the system works and how you can become more actively involved in your case as it goes along. Victim Services staff will help you learn about these things.

WHAT SERVICES CAN I EXPECT?

- ! General information about the criminal justice system to help you understand how it works
- ! Updated information on what is happening with your case.
- ! Pre-court preparation so you can participate more meaningfully in the court process
- ! Help with preparing a Victim Impact Statement, if you wish to complete one
- ! Identifying and referring you to specialized community resources, if you need them
- ! Providing emotional support and short-term counselling as you prepare and go through court
- ! Victim Services also helps with awareness and education activities regarding the issues of victims/survivors

WHO CAN USE THIS SERVICE?

You may contact Victim Services if you have been a victim of a violent crime such as sexual assault or partner assault. However, if you have been hurt by other crimes such as impaired driving, you may also contact Victim Services. It does not matter if you are female or male. There is no fee for service.

WHEN DO I CONTACT VICTIM SERVICES?

Call or drop in to the nearest Victim Services office any time after a crime has taken place. It is usually best to contact Victim Services as early as possible. You may contact Victim Services yourself, or another professional may refer you. It is not necessary that charges be laid by the police. However, if charges are laid and the case proceeds through court, Victim Services can provide help during and after the court process.

NOT EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF CRIME NEEDS THESE SERVICES, but if you do, maybe Victim Services can help.

Other programs available through Victim Services include:

- ! ASSISTANT VICTIM SERVICES WORKER PROGRAM - provides limited services to remote areas of the province
- ! PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROGRAM - helps clients of Victim Services access counselling services

For more information on any services or programs of Victim Services, contact one of the Regional Offices or:

Provincial Headquarters

Victim Services Program
Department of Justice
P.O. Box 8700
315 Duckworth Street
St. John's, NF
A1B 4J6
Tel: (709) 729-0900

Carbonear

Telephone: (709) 945-3019

Clarenville

Telephone: (709) 466-5808

Corner Brook

Telephone: (709) 637-2614

Happy Valley-Goose Bay

Telephone: (709) 896-0446

Gander

Telephone: (709) 256-1028

Grand Falls-Windsor

Telephone: (709) 292-4544

St. John's

Telephone: (709) 729-0900

Stephenville

Telephone: (709) 643-6588

Port Saunders

Telephone: (709) 861-2147

Nain

Telephone (709) 922-2360