



# **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF A VIOLENT CRIME**

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# YOU HAVE VICTIMS' RIGHTS

*Who is a victim of crime?* Someone who has suffered emotional and/or physical injury (also loss of/or damage to property) as a direct result of crime; this includes a person who was directly hurt, and the child, parent, dependent or spouse of someone who has been killed. A victim may also be a witness of crime.

## *Victims have a right to:*

- Receive information about the justice system (i.e. their case) and the services and programs available to them (including Restorative Justice).
- Have their security & privacy be considered at all stages of the criminal justice process, and to be protected from intimidation & retaliation.
- Ask the court that their identity not be released to the public.  
(Publication bans are mandatory if victims are under 18 years of age).

- An interpreter if they speak Cree, Ojibway or Oji-Cree.
- Ask for a testimonial aid at court appearances, e.g. screen, closed circuit television, or support person (VWL).
- File & present Victim Impact Statements at the sentencing stage, with VWL assistance.
- Express their views about decisions that affect their rights.
- Have the court make a restitution order, and if unpaid, enforcement in a civil court.
- If at any stage their rights are not respected, call NALSC.

Victims' rights may include information obtained from the Correctional Service of Canada or the Parole Board of Canada. To access information, a victim must be registered with either agency.

**Victims of sexual assault can apply to receive up to 2 hours of advice from a lawyer. (Program via the Ministry of the Attorney General)**

**Victims are to be treated with courtesy, compassion  
and respect for their personal dignity and privacy.**

**VICTIM WITNESS LIAISONS** help victims and witnesses of crime with information, support, referrals, and act as a liaison with justice & court personnel. They inform clients about alternative justice options (Restorative Justice). They also help clients with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Process.

**To access a Victim Witness Liaison Worker contact:**

VWL Supervisor at 1-800-465-5581

To speak to a lawyer, call Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services at (807) 622-1413.