

Restitution

If you have suffered financial loss as a result of a crime, you may have the right to seek restitution from the offender.

Information about restitution and Request for Restitution forms are available from the police. Once you have completed the form and established the amount of restitution you are seeking, return the form to the police as quickly as possible. The form is then given to the Crown prosecutor who may make application to the Court for a Restitution Order.

Financial Benefits

You may be eligible for Financial Benefits from the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victims of Crime Financial Benefits Program if you have been injured as a result of violent crime, have paid for a victim's funeral costs, and/or witnessed the homicide of a person close to you. The crime must have occurred in Alberta. For more information on how to apply, contact your local Victim Services Unit.

Victim Impact Statement Program

What is a Victim Impact Statement?

It allows you to express in writing to a judge how being a victim of a crime has affected you.

If charges are laid, and if the accused person is found guilty, your Victim Impact Statement will be considered by the judge during sentencing.

If you choose, you can read your statement aloud in court.

Police services provide information about the Victim Impact Statement Program to victims of crime.

If you wish to write a Victim Impact Statement, ask the police or Victim Services Unit to provide you with the Victim Impact Statement package.

Further Information

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General helps communities assist victims of crime. Victims of crime who want further information or feel they have not been treated fairly can contact:

Victims Services

Telephone: 780-427-3460
Fax: 780-422-4213
Toll-free through Service Alberta at 310-0000

For more information on applying for benefits for injuries suffered as a result of crime contact:

Financial Benefits Program

Telephone: 780-427-7217
Fax: 780-422-4213
Toll-free through Service Alberta at 310-0000

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General
10th Floor, J.E. Brownlee Building
10365 97 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3W7
www.victims.alberta.ca

Victim Services Unit Address and Phone Number



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Alberta

Information for Victims of Crime

VICTIMS DESERVE TO BE HEARD



Help for victims of crime

We often think of crime as something that happens to other people. When a crime occurs that affects us, we are often unsure as to what help is available.

If you are the victim of a crime, support is available to you in your community.

Alberta Victims of Crime Act

Principles

The following principles apply to the treatment of victims:

Victims 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;

Victims should promptly receive, in accordance with this act and the regulations, financial benefits for the injuries that they have suffered;

The safety and security of victims should be considered at all stages of the criminal justice process, and appropriate measures to protect victims from intimidation and retaliation should be taken when necessary;

Information should be provided to victims about the criminal justice system and the victim's role and opportunities to participate in the criminal justice process;

Information should be provided to victims, in accordance with prevailing law, 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, including the Victim Impact Statement Program, Request for Restitution Program, means of obtaining financial reparation and other assistance and programs;

The views, concerns and representation of victims are an important consideration in criminal justice processes and should be considered in accordance with prevailing law, policies and procedures;

The needs, concerns and 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.

Victims Services

In addition to community support, funding is available from the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victims of Crime Fund to establish programs to help victims of crime.

A network of Victim Services Units has been established and operates out of police facilities to follow-up the initial police response and provide assistance to victims as their cases proceed through the criminal justice system.

Where can I get help?

The first step is to call the police.

The police will investigate the crime and refer you for assistance.

What if I'm not referred for help?

All police services in Alberta have access to victim services.

If you are not referred for assistance, ask the investigating officer to put you in contact with your local Victim Services Unit.

What if victim services are not within the police service?

Ask the investigating police officer to refer you to the nearest Victim Assistance Program for assistance. If you require further information, call 780-427-3460, toll-free through Service Alberta at 310-0000.

What help can I expect?

Victim Services Units are staffed by trained volunteers. The kinds of services that are provided include:

Information. Victim Services Units provide a link between victims and the criminal justice system to help you obtain the services and information you need. The Victim Services Unit staff will listen, and offer emotional and practical support. They will inform you of opportunities to participate in the criminal justice process.

Referrals. You may need legal information, counselling, financial assistance or other services. The Victim Services Unit can provide referrals to the appropriate government or community agencies.

Assistance. If your case goes to court, the Victim Services Unit staff will work with the Crown prosecutor's office and the police to answer your questions. If you wish, the Victim Services Unit may help you prepare for court, accompany you to court, and ensure that you are informed about court dates and the outcome of the proceedings.