

Your Rights as a Victim



Who is a Victim?

A victim is described as a person or business who has suffered harm or loss as a result of an offence.

Harm may include:

- Physical or mental injury
- Emotional suffering
- Economic loss

In their search for assistance, victims may become involved in the Criminal Justice System. During this time, they have a right to be treated with respect and dignity. As well, involvement in the Criminal Justice System should not cause further inconveniences for the victim.

When an individual violates the law, the action is a violation against all members of society and should be treated as such. Therefore, everyone should take responsibility for helping victims of crime and victims should receive all the help and assistance they may need.

Safety of Victims

Victims have a right to be safe from becoming re-victimized. In any situation where safety is a concern, measures should be taken to ensure the protection of victims, their dependants, guardians, and spouses.

Access to Services

There are many services within the community that can help victims of crime. These services may be social, legal, medical, and mental health services that help victims respond to their needs. Often there are more people affected by a crime than the victim, such as dependants, guardians, and spouses. Resources should also be accessible for these individuals, where appropriate.

Information

Victims should have access to information about services from which they may benefit and should receive assistance in making use of those services. Victims should have access to the following information:

- the scope, nature, timing, and progress of the prosecution of the offence in which he or she was victim.
- the role of the victim and of other persons involved in the prosecution of the offence.
- court procedures
- crime prevention



Alternative Resolutions:

Another option for victims to explore are resources other than court procedures, such as using a mediator to resolve situations and determine financial or other restitution. Restitution is a financial payment that must be made either to the court or directly to the individual. When matters are addressed in a court setting, court officials and representatives should consider the needs of the victim. For example, whether or not a victim is entitled to restitution should be addressed in making a final decision about the matter.

Contacting Victim Services in Newfoundland and Labrador:

If you have been the victim of a crime and would like more information about Victim Services or writing a Victim Impact Statement, you can contact any of the following locations:

Gander: (709) 256-1028

Grand Falls-Windsor:(709) 292-4544

Corner Brook: (709) 637-2614

Port Saunders: (709) 861-2147

St. John's: (709) 729-0900

Marystown: (709) 279-3216

Carbonear: (709) 945-3019

Happy-Valley-Goose Bay: (709) 896-0446

Clarenville: (709) 466-5808

Nain: (709) 922-2360

Stephenville: (709) 643-6588

How to Contact Us:

If you would like further information on this subject, or any of PLIAN's services including our Lawyer Referral Service, please contact our office at:

Public Legal Information Association of NL

31 Peet Street, Suite 227

St. John's, NL A1B 3W8

(709) 722-2643

(709) 722-0054 (fax)

info@publiclegalinfo.com

www.publiclegalinfo.com

ISBN: 978-1-894829-56-4

Original written by Cheryl M. Bennett; Updated by Kristen O'Keefe Feb 2008

Copyright PLIAN February 2008 (second edition)

This pamphlet provides general information only. If you require particular legal advice, please contact a lawyer. The funding for this pamphlet was provided by the Department of Justice Canada, Family, Children and Youth Section.

**Public Legal
Information**

Association of NL

www.publiclegalinfo.com