

ARE YOU A VICTIM OF CRIME?

Treatment of Victims of Crime – continued

- 7 a victim should be informed about the trial process and the rights and responsibilities of witnesses;
- 8 a victim should be protected from unnecessary contact with the accused and defence witnesses during the course of the trial;
- 9 a victim's residential address should be withheld unless the court directs otherwise;
- 10 a victim should be relieved from appearing at preliminary hearings or committal proceedings unless the court directs otherwise;
- 11 a victim should be given an explanation of the outcome of criminal proceedings and of any sentence and its implications; and
- 12 a victim who is known to have expressed a concern about the need for protection from an offender should be informed of the offender's impending release from custody.

If you have any enquires about your rights as a victim of crime please contact the Victims of Crime Coordinator on **6257 8452**.

Need help?

For police assistance in the ACT you can call police 24 hours, seven days a week on **131 444** or go to a police station nearest you.

If it is a life threatening situation you can call the emergency number on **000** free call.

ACT Police Stations

Canberra City

London Circuit
Canberra City ACT 2601
6245 7208

Gungahlin

(open until 11.00pm,
seven days)
Gozzard Street
Gungahlin ACT 2912
6241 7755

Woden

Bradley Street
Phillip ACT 2606
6269 2777

Belconnen

Lathlain Street
Belconnen ACT 2617
6256 1777

Tuggeranong

Cnr Soward Way and
Anketell Street
Greenway ACT 2900
6293 7777

www.afp.gov.au





The Australian Capital Territory is one of the safest places in the country to live. However crime does still occur in our city and it is important to know what options are available if you or someone close to you have been directly affected by a crime.

A victim of crime is any person who:

- ▶ suffers harm because of a crime;
- ▶ suffers harm assisting a police officer who is attempting to arrest a person or prevent a crime;
- ▶ witnesses a crime where a person has suffered harm; or
- ▶ was dependent upon a person who has been injured or died as a result of a crime.

If you believe that you are a victim of crime, there are a number of services offered by ACT Policing's Victim Liaison Officers which may help you during this difficult time:

- ▶ keeping you updated on your case;
- ▶ explaining the police investigation and court processes;
- ▶ providing information and help with Victim Impact Statements;
- ▶ referral to the Director of Public Prosecutions Witness Assistant;
- ▶ providing information on, and referral to, victim support and counselling services;
- ▶ providing information on financial assistance and compensation; and
- ▶ court support.

How to get help?

If you need assistance and/or information about victim services contact our Victim Liaison Officers during business hours at:

City Police Station

London Circuit
Canberra City ACT 2601
Ph 6245 7441

Treatment of Victims of Crime

To ensure fair treatment of all victims of crime, ACT Policing follows the *Victims of Crime Act 1994* governing principles:

- 1** a victim should be dealt with at all times in a sympathetic, constructive and reassuring manner and with due regard to his or her personal situation, rights and dignity;
- 2** a victim should be informed at reasonable intervals (generally not exceeding one month) of the progress of police investigations concerning the relevant offence, except where such disclosure might jeopardise the investigation, and, in that case, the victim should be informed accordingly;
- 3** a victim should be informed of all the charges laid against the accused and of any modification of the charges;
- 4** a victim should be informed of any decision concerning the accused to accept a plea of guilty to a lesser charge or a guilty plea in return for a recommendation of leniency in sentencing;
- 5** a victim should be informed of any decision not to proceed with a charge against the accused;
- 6** where any property of the victim is held by the Crown for the purposes of investigation or evidence, inconvenience to the victim should be minimised and the property returned promptly;

