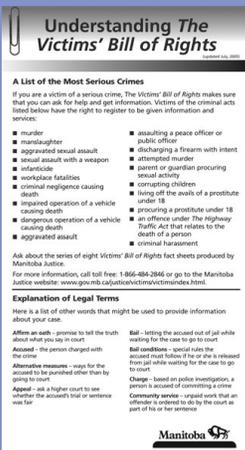


The Victims' Bill of Rights

The Role of Law Enforcement Agencies

Please refer to *Understanding The Victims' Bill of Rights* for a current list of the most serious crimes to see if you are eligible for services under *The Victims' Bill of Rights*.

The meaning of the words in bold type are also explained in *Understanding The Victims' Bill of Rights*.



Manitoba Justice recognizes the need to offer information, assistance and support to victims of the most serious crimes.

Crime victim services workers:

- provide information about the justice system and community resources
- advise victims of their options, rights and responsibilities

For information

Call toll free: **1-866-4VICTIM**(1-866-484-2846)

Or go to: www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/victimsindex.html

What is the role of the police?

The primary role of the police is to enforce the law. The first contact victims have with the police usually happens when they call for help or make a complaint. Complaints, or calls for service, usually result in an incident report. Police may interview victims and any witnesses to see if there is enough evidence to lay a **charge**.

What information will I receive under *The Victims' Bill of Rights*?

Police will advise you if you are eligible to register to receive information and services under the bill.

Information about the investigation

The police must give you certain information if you ask for it:

- the status of the investigation
- the name of any person charged and whether that person is being held in **police custody**

- the date the **accused** is released from police custody
- any reasons why a charge was not laid

The police agency can provide information about:

- the rights and remedies of victims under *The Victims' Bill of Rights*
- the **Compensation** for Victims of Crime Program
- the police agency's name, address and telephone number
- the number of the police file about the offence (the police **occurrence number**)
- the Manitoba Victim Impact Statement Program
- crime prevention, safety / protection planning and services available in your community, including medical, financial, housing, counselling, legal and emergency services
- how to apply for restitution
- how to get property used in an investigation returned
- the date the accused is released from police custody and any conditions they may have to follow
- how to report the accused if he or she does not follow **release conditions** (breach)

Information about an escape from police custody

If the accused is released, escapes police custody or does not follow a condition of release (breach), the police must notify you:

- if the person could be a threat to you or your family's safety or
- if the person is accused or under investigation for criminal harassment

Information about the Prosecutions office

Once a charge is laid against an accused and the case is passed on to the Crown attorney's office, the police must give you the address and telephone number of the office responsible for prosecuting the offence, if you request it.

What can I expect from the police?

To be consulted

The police must consult you, where reasonably possible, about:

- using pre-charge alternative measures
- whether the accused should be kept in police custody for safety reasons or released
- if released, whether the accused should have to follow any conditions

To be interviewed by someone of the same gender in a sexual offence

Victims of sexual assault can ask to be interviewed by an officer of the same gender. The police will try to accommodate such a request whenever possible.

To have your personal property returned

You may have to leave personal property with the police for a long time while it is used as evidence. You are entitled to have your property returned promptly at the end of the investigation if it is not needed for a prosecution.

To have confidentiality maintained

If you request it, your address, telephone number and place of employment can stay confidential, except when the law requires disclosure.