

Information Sheet

Actions a Victim of Crime Can Take

Make a complaint to the police

The police are obliged to investigate all complaints of crime. If the police believe there is sufficient evidence, they will charge the offender.

A victim cannot insist on charges being laid nor on charges being dropped, however, if they consider that the police have not acted appropriately they can:

- Contact the officer in charge of the police station where the complaint was made;
- If still not satisfied, report the matter to Queensland Police Service Headquarters;
- If still not satisfied, report the matter to the Crime and Misconduct Commission.

Withdrawal of a Complaint

A victim is able to withdraw a complaint made to the police. The police usually require this to be done in writing. The police may still proceed with the charge if they have sufficient evidence without the victim's complaint.

Compensation

Criminal compensation may be available for personal injury and restitution may be ordered for loss of property.

Civil compensation may also be available and a person should seek legal advice.

Support Groups

There are numerous support groups for victims of crime including specialist services for sexual assault and domestic and family violence.

Stopping Contact by the Offender

Bail conditions can restrict the offender having contact with a victim. A victim may also be entitled to apply for a Domestic Violence Protection Order or a Peace and Good Behaviour Order.

Giving Evidence in Court

If the offender pleads not guilty to the offence and a trial is held, the victim may be required to give evidence at the hearing. In most situations the victim is able to have support people present in court. In some circumstances, a victim can ask the court to take special measures eg., video, non-identification in the media, barriers in court.

If the offender pleads guilty or is found guilty, the victim can present to the court a **Victim Impact Statement**. Some victim support groups may assist with the preparation of statements.

Victim/offender Mediation

Where a crime is committed by a juvenile, the police or the court can arrange for mediation to take place between the victim and the offender.

Adapted from Legal Aid Qld fact sheet.