



The Victims Counselling and Support Services 'Real Life Stories' section is a place where individuals, family, friends, bystanders and witnesses who have been impacted by crime can express their stories and share with others their experiences. It is a place where sharing can assist both the writer and the reader through a very difficult time.

It is important to be aware that there are rules and a code of behaviour in place in order to protect all parties.

To make this happen we've created a few rules that will help everyone get along. When these rules are broken we may have to censor your submissions or not place your submission on the site at all. To stop this from happening here is a list of things you should keep in mind when submitting a 'Real Life Story':

### **Be Polite and Respectful**

- Please, try not to swear. It is possible to get your point across without excessive expletives, in many cases your argument will be stronger because of it.
- Offensive behaviour is not just rude words. Saying things in a particularly aggressive or hurtful manner can result in your submission not being uploaded.
- We have a legal obligation to remove any posts which may be defamatory. This basically means that if you say anything that might lower or damage someone's reputation, it will be removed.
- The authors of submissions have taken a brave step of putting down in words their own experiences and events to share with others. Please respect their work and their story.

### **Don't give out personal contact information**

Posting phone numbers and addresses (whether they be yours or others) can bring unwanted attention and possible danger. It goes without saying that this advice is important to remember no matter where you are on the internet. So please keep personal contact information to yourself at all times.

### **Don't go breaking the law**

We have a responsibility to ensure unlawful submissions are removed. It is illegal to publish discussion of any events that are related to a legal matter presently in the court process. Court processes can involve criminal matters, non-criminal matters as well as court hearings that have recently concluded. This also includes family court matters and the discussion of crimes committed by juveniles.

*Relationships Australia*

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