



# Guide for Victims of Crime

**In Canada, victims of crime have rights protected by the law.**

This guide will help you know what to do:

- if something is stolen from you
- if you are threatened or harassed
- if you are physically or sexually assaulted (even by members of your family)

## **A victim is:**

a person who has been hurt physically or emotionally, or lost property and/or money because of a crime

*OR*

a person **acting** for a victim who died, a person under 18, or another adult who they take care of



## **Right after the crime**

- Call 911, or if it isn't an emergency contact the police to report it
- If you need help understanding English or French, ask for an interpreter
- You can ask to be helped by a male or female officer if available
- You can bring someone you trust with you
- Ask for help from the victim services unit or special community program
- Family violence is illegal in Canada. Some police stations have a special family violence unit to help you



## **After the police have left**

The victim services unit can tell you about:

- Victim Impact Statements- so you can tell the judge how the crime has affected you
- Financial Benefit Forms – to apply for money if you have been injured by a violent crime
- Restitution – if you have lost money or property because of the crime
- Each of these programs have special rules. If you don't understand the processes, the victim services unit staff will explain them

## There are many people who get involved when a crime happens:

### The Police:

Police are the first people to come to the scene of a crime.

They are there to help, not to hurt you.

### Victim Services Units:

People who help take care of your needs and rights as a victim.

They can give you information, and find other services to help you.

### Community-Based Victim Services Programs:

Special programs to help you if you are the victim of a specific type of crime such as family violence or sexual assault.

### Crown Prosecutors:

A lawyer who works for the government and represents those affected by the crime

### Defence Lawyers:

A lawyer who works for the person accused of the crime

## REMEMBER

- ✓ What happened is not your fault
- ✓ You have the right to be treated with courtesy and respect
- ✓ You can ask the victim services unit for help and information
- ✓ You can ask for an interpreter
- ✓ You can ask for a support person to be with you at court