

Are you the victim of a sex crime?

WHAT TO DO NOW?



politie.nl

Town/city:

Date:

You spoke with:

Telephone number:

Case number:

Inhoud

1.	Reporting to the police.....	6
2.	Information about filing a report	6
3.	Forensic Medical Examination.....	7
4.	Do you wish to file a report? The decision is yours	8
5.	What happens after you file a report.....	10
	Privacy and safety.....	11
	Your rights as a victim	13
	Criminal prosecution of the suspect.....	14
	1. Decision whether to prosecute	14
	2. The trial	15
	3. Compensation and location or contact ban	18
	Where can I get more information and help.....	20

I am the victim of a sex crime. What can I do?

You can get help

Sex crimes are investigated by the police Sexual Offences Team. If you or someone you know is the victim of a sex crime, the Sexual Offences Team helps you by providing information, advice, and assistance. We do this together with support agencies.

You may have questions like:

- Will I report the assault or abuse to the police? If so, should I file a report?
- Is what happened to me punishable?
- What happens to me when I file a report?
- What is the procedure when I file a report?
- May I be entitled to compensation?

This brochure will answer these and other questions. If you still have questions after reading the brochure, you can contact the Sexual Offences Team or the care institutions for more information at any time.

During the first contact, you will be given the contact details of the department handling your case. If you lose these contact details, you can also reach the Sexual Offences Team via 0900 – 8844. In the back of this brochure, you will also find the contact details of other support agencies.

What is a sex crime?

The Dutch Criminal Code describes sexual acts that are punishable. This

includes sexual acts that take place under duress or in an unequal situation. Examples include rape, sexual assault, indecent acts with a minor, grooming, and the possession of child sexual abuse images (child pornography). Maybe you are not certain whether what happened to you is punishable. Then you can contact us too.

What is the Sexual Offences Team?

Every police region has a Sexual Offences Team. These teams include specialized investigators. They have been trained to assist victims of sex crimes and they are specialized in investigating such cases.

If you or someone around you is the victim of a sex crime, this may have a major impact. Feelings of anxiety, guilt, shame, and loyalty may also play a role. The decision to file a report may be a difficult one. For instance, if you know the perpetrator. Vice investigators know how to deal with this. They will help you by providing the right information and assistance. Vice investigators also investigate the sexual offence. For this investigation, it is important that the vice investigator is neutral and focused on establishing the truth.

Public morals legislation and the Sexual Offences Act

On 1 July 2024, the new Sexual Offences Act will become effective. This means

that sex crimes committed before 1 July 2024 fall under the old public morals legislation, and sex crimes committed after 1 July 2024 fall under the Sexual Offences Act. The vice investigator you talk to can tell you what this means for your situation.

1. Reporting to the police

Has it just happened? Are you in urgent need of medical care? Are you or others in danger? Call 112. In other cases, call 0900 -8844 and ask for the Sexual Offences Team.

The first contact with the police about sexual offences is called a notification. During this first contact you notify the police about what happened to you. It is important to contact the police as soon as possible if you are a victim. You do not yet file a report, but the police do register your notification.

Is it an emergency?

The situation may be an emergency, for instance if the sexual assault has just happened, or there is danger. Receiving proper medical and psychological help can be important for your physical and emotional recovery. It may also be necessary to immediately secure traces. In consultation with you, a rapid start can be made to investigate any traces. This can also be done even if you are still uncertain whether you want to file a report. You will find more information about this in this brochure under 'Forensic Medical Examination'.

If you do not (yet) want to go to the police, you can also call the Sexual Assault Center for medical and psychological assistance.

The Sexual Assault Center

The Sexual Assault Center (SAC) is for anyone who has had to deal with sexual assault or abuse. You can also contact them anonymously. If you want, the SAC can engage doctors, nurses, psychologists, the police, and other care providers. You will find the contact details in the back of this brochure.

2. Information about filing a report

After your notification, you will be put in contact with the Sexual Offences Team. You give a brief description of what happened to you. This conversation may take place at the police station or sometimes by telephone or video call. The vice investigator will give you information about possible further steps.

During this conversation you can ask questions, such as: is what happened to me a criminal offence? What are the options for assistance, recovery, and filing a report? What happens if I file a report? The vice investigator assesses whether what happened may be a criminal offence. If this is the case, you can file a report. In addition, the vice investigator will discuss the various assistance options open to you, in the

form of further information, advice, and assistance. If you wish, the police can put you in touch with the right support agencies, such as the Sexual Assault Center, Victim Support Netherlands, Veilig Thuis (Safe Home), Perspectief Herstelbemiddeling (restorative victim-offender mediation), or mediation in criminal cases. The latter is a form of mediation between you and the suspect. The vice investigator will also inform you about your rights. You will find more information in this brochure under 'Your rights as a victim'.

The vice investigator provides you with information that may help you decide what to do. If you have already decided that you want to file a report, we will make an appointment for this.

Victim lawyer

A specialized victim lawyer offers you support and assistance with the legal side of a sexual offence case. A victim lawyer can also help you with proceedings other than criminal proceedings. This might include securing compensation via civil law proceedings or demanding a contact ban, for instance. In certain cases, you can make use of a victim lawyer for free.

Reflection period

It is also possible that you first want some time to think about whether or not you want to file a report. If this is the case, we can offer you a reflection period. During this period, you may, for instance, consult with a confidential

counsellor or a victim lawyer. Together, we determine the reflection time you will need, often one or two weeks. During this reflection period you can also contact a vice investigator. If we do not hear from you after the reflection period and cannot get in touch with you, we will assume that you do not want to take further steps.

3. Forensic Medical Examination

The first step is a physical examination to collect important trace evidence. This is known as a forensic medical examination. If the sexual assault took place less than a week ago and you give permission for this examination, a vice investigator will accompany you to a Sexual Assault Center (SAC), where the examination will take place. At the SAC, doctors, nurses, police, and other assistance agencies work together to provide specialist care to victims of sexual offences.

At the SAC

A specially trained doctor carries out the medical examination in a room equipped for this purpose. During the examination, the doctor may secure traces of the sexual offence, such as sperm, blood, hairs, or fibres. During this examination, the doctor can also check for physical consequences of the sexual offence, such as injury, pregnancy, or a sexually transmitted disease, for which the doctor can test you. The doctor will take a cheek swab too. This will allow us to determine your DNA profile so we can distinguish the

suspect's trace evidence from your own trace material. We use your DNA profile solely for your case and destroy it afterwards. So your DNA profile will not be saved after your case has been concluded.



Physical examination of the suspect

A suspect may undergo a similar physical examination at a later time, so that trace evidence can be secured.

4. Do you wish to file a report? The decision is yours

By filing a report, you ask the police to start an investigation. The police will then try to gather evidence of the sexual offence. The perpetrator may ultimately be punished by the court. Because filing a report may have

consequences for yourself and for the suspect, it is important that you are the one who decides whether you want to file a report.

Reasons to file a report may be:

- You feel the suspect should be punished.
- You want to prevent more victims.
- You want what happened to you to be acknowledged.
- You suffered damage and you want compensation.

You may decide not to file a report, for instance because you do not want legal proceedings. You may also choose to have therapy first or you may decide that a different solution, such as restorative mediation, is better suited to your situation.

If you decide not to file a report We save your notification

If you do not want to file a report after your first contact with the police, we will save your notification for ten years. The police will not start an investigation unless the public prosecutor decides otherwise. This may happen if there is a risk of recurrence or if someone's safety is at stake. If you indicate that you want something other than criminal prosecution of the suspect, we can refer you to the right support agency. For medical and psychological assistance, we refer you to the Sexual Assault Center. If you wish to have supervised contact with the perpetrator, we can refer you to Perspectief Herstelbemiddeling (restorative victim-offender mediation).

For emotional support or assistance in obtaining compensation, you can contact Victim Support Netherlands.

The vice investigator will discuss the options with you, in light of your situation.

If you do file a report **The reporting interview**

If you decide to file a report, we will make an appointment with you for what we call the reporting interview. During this interview, a vice investigator will write down your account. We call this an official report.

During the reporting interview, the vice investigator will ask you questions to help you clarify your account as much as possible. You may experience a reporting interview as intensive. The vice investigator will make you feel as comfortable as possible and will provide guidance during the interview. The vice investigator will also explain why certain questions are being asked. The questions mainly refer to what exactly happened, what was said, and what was done before, during and after the sexual offence. The vice investigator will help you tell them what happened to you as precisely as possible. It is understandable if you no longer remember everything; that is not a problem. This reporting interview is important, as your statement may be an important piece of evidence. Recording the statement as accurately as possible reduces the chances that you will have to answer questions again at a later point in the investigation.

Of course, if you have any questions, you can put them to the vice investigator. You can also say if you need a short break during the interview. In addition, you may tell us how you are currently getting on and share your views on the possible prosecution of the suspect, and you can apply for compensation from the suspect. You can indicate before the start of the interview what the vice investigators should bear in mind to make the interview as manageable as possible for you.

Signing the official report

After the official report has been drawn up, you can read your statement and sign it. If you feel something has not been recorded accurately, we will amend your statement. You only sign when you are sure that everything is correct. Once the official report has been signed, you can no longer withdraw your statement. However, it is possible to make an additional statement at a later time, if necessary.

Confidential counsellor

If you want to bring a confidential counsellor to the reporting interview, you can discuss this with us. The counsellor can then support you before and after the interview. During the interview, the counsellor will wait for you in a waiting room. This is because we feel it is important that you yourself give us your account.

Incorrect report

The vice investigator will tell you that it is punishable to intentionally file a false report. This does not mean that the investigator does not believe your

account. An investigator has to say this to everyone who files a report.

Audio and video recording

If you have a meeting with us to talk about the sexual offence committed against you or to file a report, we make an audio recording of these interviews. Sometimes we also make a video recording. This enables us to verify that the interviews were conducted properly. In addition, the public prosecutor, judge, and lawyer are sometimes better able to assess a case when they can hear or see a recording of the interview.

Child-friendly room

The police have child-friendly rooms for children aged four to twelve who are victims or witnesses of a serious offence, where specially trained vice investigators conduct the interviews. We always make audio and video recordings of these interviews. These rooms are also available for interviewing persons with a mental impairment. As these interviews may constitute an important piece of evidence, parents cannot be present during the interview. There is a waiting room where they can wait.

Parents and guardians are not usually informed of what was said during an interview between the vice investigator and the victim or witness. If parents or guardians need help or counselling, they can turn to the Sexual Assault Center or Victim Support Netherlands. The contact details of these organizations can be found in the back of this brochure.

How long will it take to file a report?

How long it takes to file a report of a sexual offence differs for each case. It may take an hour or two or a whole day. Sometimes more than one interview is required. The time it takes differs from one person to the next and also depends on what happened. The vice investigator can give you an indication beforehand of how much time they think your report will take.

5. What happens after you file a report

The criminal investigation

Once you have filed a report, the police will start a criminal investigation: the investigative proceedings. The aim of this investigation is to gather evidence. This evidence is important for a potential criminal trial. During this trial, the judge may impose a punishment on the perpetrator of a sexual offence. Please bear in mind that a trial may take a long time. This is because investigating a case takes a lot of time. The judge may also want to ask you questions at a later time.

Evidence

Sometimes we ask for your help when gathering evidence. We might need to investigate your computer or smart phone, for instance. It may also be important to collect statements from people who saw or heard something. In addition, it is possible that trace evidence from the suspect may be on your clothes or on your body. See 'Forensic Medical Examination' in this brochure for more information.

Arrest and interrogation of the suspect

The public prosecutor can order the police to arrest the suspect. For most sexual offences, the police can hold a suspect at the police station for interrogation for nine hours.

Detention in police custody

Sometimes a suspect can be detained at a police station for a longer period. This happens if it is important for the investigation. This is known as 'detention in police custody'. The public prosecutor then decides whether the suspect will be brought before the Examining Magistrate, who determines whether the suspect should be detained for a longer period. This may happen in the interest of the investigation or for the safety of persons involved. The Examining Magistrate may also decide that a suspect can go home, possibly subject to certain conditions. The suspect can then await further investigation at home. The Examining Magistrate does not decide whether a suspect is guilty.

Remand in custody

If the Examining Magistrate determines that the suspect must be held for a longer period of time, this is known as 'remanding the suspect in custody'. A suspect who is remanded in custody can be held for a maximum of fourteen days. Then the court will decide whether the suspect should remain in custody for an even longer period, if necessary until the trial. The suspect may also be released temporarily, sometimes subject to certain conditions. If the suspect is released,

temporarily or otherwise, we will always let you know.

We will keep you informed

The police contact you at key moments in the investigation. You will have contact with the Sexual Offences Team on the following occasions:

- During your first contact or the informative interview when you file a report;
- If a suspect is arrested;
- If a suspect is released. In the case of release from remand, you will be informed by the Public Prosecution Service;
- When the police investigation is concluded.

Contacting the Sexual Offences Team

You can contact the Sexual Offences Team at any time: if you have additional questions about the police investigation, for instance, or new information that may be important; or you want further information about support options and legal representation. During your notification or your first contact with the police you will be given the contact details of the Sexual Offences Team handling your case. If you do not have direct contact details, you can reach the Sexual Offences Team via phone number 0900-8844.

Privacy and safety Reporting anonymously

An official report always contains your name and date of birth. However, you can choose to report under an "address for service". This means that the official report does not contain your own



address. Where sexual offences are concerned, the possibilities to report anonymously are generally limited. This may be because victim and suspect know one another. Or because the content of the official report reveals the victim's identity. If you are worried about your safety, please discuss this with the vice investigator, because you have a right to protection. Together with you we will look into the protective measures that are possible in your situation.

Proof of reporting

You have the right to receive a copy of your report. Nevertheless, we – the police and Public Prosecution Service – are cautious about this. We want to

prevent your official report ending up in the wrong hands or you or others involved being influenced by other people based on the report. In each individual situation, the police assess and explain whether there may be reasons to not yet furnish the report. You will always receive proof of reporting. This states when and to whom you filed a report of what offence, and why you have not yet received a copy of the official report.

File

Everything that can be recorded about your notification or official report will be gathered in a file. This file can be read by the police, the public prosecutor, the judge, the lawyer, and

the suspect(s). On request, these persons can also listen to or watch recordings of interviews. This happens at the police station. The suspect can only do this if accompanied by a lawyer.

Informing the parents

Victims under eighteen who file a notification or report of sexual abuse sometimes do this independently, without their parents' knowledge. We discuss with these victims whether, and if so how, we will inform their parents about what happened to them.

Afraid of the suspect

Some victims are afraid of the suspect. If this is the case for you, it is important that you discuss these feelings with the vice investigator. The police have various options to help you feel more secure. .

Your rights as a victim

You, as a victim, have rights. These rights also apply if you do not live in the Netherlands or do not have residency status.

Right to information

You have the right to information. As much as possible, the vice investigator will keep you informed of important developments in your case.

Right to file a report

You have the right to file a report.

Right of inspection

You have the right to read what has been recorded about you by the police. If you wish to inspect your record, you can submit a request to the privacy

desk of the police headquarters in your area. If the investigation is still ongoing, the police may refuse your request for the time being.

The right to protection

If you worried about your safety, always discuss this with the police. Together we will determine what we can do to make you feel more secure.

Right to free assistance

For free assistance, advice, and information, there are several organizations you can consult. You will find an overview of these organizations at the end of this brochure. This right to assistance also applies if you do not file a report. You can always make use of this right, even if the sexual offence took place a long time ago. So you can ask for assistance when you notify the police, but also at a later time.

Right to free legal assistance

There are special victim lawyers who provide legal assistance for free. Victim Support Netherlands can tell you whether you are eligible for this.

Right to translation

If you do not have a good grasp of the Dutch language, you can ask the police for an interpreter. We will arrange this for you free of charge. If you want a written translation of the documents about your case, Victim Support Netherlands or a lawyer can help you with this.

Right to compensation

If you have suffered damage because of what happened to you, you can often

apply for compensation from the perpetrator. The public prosecutor or the judge will decide whether the perpetrator has to pay compensation. In some cases, the Violent Crimes Compensation Fund also pays part of the compensation. Victim Support Netherlands or a lawyer can help you with this.

Right to contact with the perpetrator

You may, at some time, wish to have contact with the perpetrator. We can refer you to support agencies that can help you arrange this.

Restorative victim-offender mediation

Sometimes it may be beneficial for the victim and perpetrator to have contact with one another. This may be in writing, but also in the form of a meeting. The contact may help you cope with the incident or decrease your fear of the perpetrator. Agreements can also be made about contact in the future.

Right to be treated with respect

You have the right to be treated with respect by the police and other support agencies. We must take into account what is important for you. If you feel we have not treated you properly, you can submit a complaint at all times. More information about your rights as a victim can be found at the website of the Dutch Government.

Criminal prosecution of the suspect

What are criminal proceedings?

‘Criminal proceedings’ refers to a trial in which a suspect is prosecuted by the public prosecutor for committing a criminal offence. The public prosecutor represents the Public Prosecution Service. The public prosecutor decides whether a person will be prosecuted. In criminal proceedings, a judge ultimately reaches a decision: a judgment. The judge then determines whether the perpetrator will be punished and what this punishment will be.

1. Decision whether to prosecute

An unprovable case

A police investigation may not lead to a provable case. This means that we cannot find enough evidence against the suspect or cannot track the suspect down.

If a case is provable at the conclusion of the investigation

If, once the police have concluded their investigation and have interviewed the suspect, a case is deemed provable, the file is passed on to the public prosecutor. Based on this file, the public prosecutor can start criminal proceedings.

The victim interview

The public prosecutor handling your case will usually offer you the opportunity for a consultation. This is known as a victim interview. You can

also contact the public prosecutor yourself to arrange this. During this consultation, the public prosecutor prepares you for a potential trial..



Reasons to forego prosecution

If the public prosecutor decides to forego prosecution of the suspect, this is usually due to a lack of evidence on which a judge could convict the suspect. So it does not mean that the public prosecutor does not believe you.

If you do not agree with the decision, you can start a complaint procedure. Victim Support Netherlands or a lawyer can provide more information about this.

Preliminary investigation by the examining magistrate

If the public prosecutor requires further investigation to make a decision, or if the suspect's lawyer requests it, the examining magistrate can be asked to investigate. The examining magistrate may summon you to answer questions. If this

happens, you are legally obliged to come. The examining magistrate will ask you to take the oath or solemn affirmation. In an oath or solemn affirmation you promise to tell the truth. After this, the actual interview will start. Usually, the suspect's lawyer will also be present during this interview. The suspect's lawyer can also ask you questions. The suspect will not be present. In addition, a clerk will be present to record the interview in writing.

You may ask a lawyer to assist you during this interview. You may also ask to bring someone else, for which the examining magistrate must give permission. At the end of the interview, the clerk reads out what has been written down. If everything is correct, you sign the statement. The examining magistrate can also summon other witnesses. When the examining magistrate has concluded the investigation, the public prosecutor decides whether or not the suspect can be prosecuted..

2. The trial

All aspects of a trial can be stressful. Remember that you are not alone. In this chapter we tell you how a trial proceeds, so you have an idea of what to expect.

Victim Support Netherlands

Victim Support Netherlands offers emotional, practical, and legal support to all victims of a sexual offence. For instance, they can help you obtain compensation for the damage you suffered, offer free legal assistance during the trial, and can put you in contact with fellow victims. They also support the victim's close friends and family. You will find the contact details of Victim Support Netherlands in the back of this brochure.

Summons to appear as a witness

The public prosecutor may send you a summons, which is a written request, to attend the trial as a witness. If you are not summoned as a witness, you can often decide yourself whether or not to attend the trial. Sometimes a judge may decide that a trial is not open to the public, for instance if the suspect is under eighteen. In such cases, you can ask the judge whether you, as a victim, can attend the trial anyway. You yourself can also request that the trial should not be open to the public. Indicate this to the public prosecutor in good time.

Applying for compensation

If you want to apply for compensation, you can submit a compensation form prior to the trial. We call this a criminal injuries compensation form. The judge will decide during the trial whether the perpetrator must compensate you for the damage you suffered. Submitting a criminal injuries compensation form

does not necessarily mean that the damage you suffered will be compensated. Victim Support Netherlands or a lawyer can help you fill in a criminal injuries compensation form and advise you about obtaining compensation.

Right to address the court

In most sexual abuse trials, a victim has the right to address the court. This means you are allowed to speak at the trial. You yourself determine what you want to say. It may be about the punishment you feel should be imposed on the suspect, for instance, or about the impact the sexual abuse has had on you. We call this a victim statement. Victim Support Netherlands or a lawyer can help you prepare this victim statement, and they can also read it out for you if cannot or do not want to do it.

If you have to testify

We try to prevent you having to give your account and answer questions several times. Sometimes a judge may want to question you as a witness during the trial. You will then receive an official letter containing a summons. This will oblige you to appear before the judge. Usually you will be allowed to bring someone along, if you want. Others, such as your friends or relatives, may also be summoned as witnesses.

Being the victim of a sexual offence also makes you the witness of a crime. Each witness in a criminal trial is interviewed separately. The judge first asks your name, age, and place of residence. The judge will also ask you

whether you are a relative of the suspect. Then the judge will ask you to take the oath or solemn affirmation. In the oath or solemn affirmation you promise to tell the truth. After this, the judge will ask you a number of questions. The judge will ask you to clarify certain matters. It is completely normal if you are unable to remember everything exactly. After the judge has asked questions, the suspect's lawyer and the public prosecutor can also question you.

If you do not want to testify

If you are summoned to testify during the trial but do not want to, you can write a letter to the court and the public prosecutor explaining your reasons. However, even after this letter, a judge may still oblige you to appear as a witness.

The trial starts

There are usually three judges. One judge is the chair and does the talking. Everything is recorded in writing by a clerk. The judge asks the suspect's name. The judge tells the suspect that they have the right not to answer questions. Witnesses and experts do have to answer all questions. The public prosecutor reads out what the suspect is accused of. The judge then questions the suspect.

Witness examination

Subsequently, the judge may have questions for the witnesses. These questions are asked during the witness examination. Expert witnesses may also be examined, such as a doctor, psychiatrist, or psychologist. Before or after this, the judge questions the suspect. If you want to make use of



your right to address the court and have indicated this via Victim Support Netherlands or your lawyer, you will have the opportunity to speak after the witness examination. This is also the point that potential compensation can be addressed.

If you do not want the suspect to be present

If it is difficult for you to have the suspect present in the courtroom, you can tell the public prosecutor beforehand. The public prosecutor can then explain your request to the judge. The judge will subsequently decide whether or not the suspect will be present.

The conclusion of the trial

When everyone has been heard and the case has been discussed sufficiently, the public prosecutor is called on to speak. The public prosecutor summarizes the facts and states their opinion about whether the criminal offence has been sufficiently proven and what punishment is most fitting. This is referred to as the sentence demand. The public prosecutor can also demand a contact ban and a location ban. After this, the suspect's lawyer starts the oral arguments, explaining why the punishment is or is not appropriate. The suspect is the last person to be called on to speak.

When is the judgment announced?

At the end of the trial, the judge states when the judgment will be announced. In the judgment, the judge states whether or not the suspect will receive

a sentence. If the suspect is sentenced, the judge also states what the sentence is. Usually, the judgment is announced two weeks after the trial. You can attend the court to hear the judgment. Judgments are always public, so someone else can attend in your place.

Appeal

If the suspect or the public prosecutor does not agree with the judgment, they can appeal. As a victim you cannot appeal. The decision to appeal must be made within fourteen days of the judgment. In an appeal, the case will be reexamined by a higher court. It may be a year before an appeal is handled. An appeal trial will proceed in the same way as the initial trial.

3. Compensation and location or contact ban

Compensation

You can apply for compensation in several ways:

- Through criminal law
- Through civil law
- Through the Violent Crimes Compensation Fund

In addition to compensation for doctors' fees, new clothes, etc., you can ask compensation for the suffering that was inflicted on you. We call this compensation for pain, suffering, and emotional distress.

Compensation through criminal law

If you wish to apply for compensation, you can indicate this in the requests form that the Public Prosecution Service sends you if a suspect is to be prosecuted. If you apply for

compensation, you can ask Victim Support Netherlands or a lawyer for assistance.

Compensation through civil law

You can also apply for compensation in a civil court. This is a court that usually handles cases between citizens. You usually need a lawyer for civil proceedings.

Compensation through the Violent Crimes Compensation Fund

The Violent Crimes Compensation Fund offers financial compensation to people who have fallen victim to a violent crime and have suffered serious psychological or physical consequences. To be eligible for compensation, the following conditions apply:

- In principle, the request must be submitted within ten years of the offence being committed.
- The damage has not been compensated in any other way, for instance by an insurance company.

If you wish to make use of this option, Victims Support Netherlands or a lawyer can assist you.

Location ban and contact ban

It happens frequently that sexual abuse victims request a location ban or a contact ban for the suspect. A location ban means that the suspect is not allowed to be in a particular street or a particular area. A contact ban means that the suspect is not allowed to contact you in any way. This includes via others.

If the suspect makes you feel threatened or anxious, you can ask the judge for a location ban, a contact ban, or both.

Requesting a location or contact ban when you file a report

When you file a report, you can ask for a location or contact ban. The public prosecutor can then request the judge to impose a location or contact ban on the suspect.



Requesting a location or contact ban via civil proceedings

A different way to request a location or contact ban is via civil proceedings. This means you can ask a civil court to impose a location or contact ban. A civil court is a court that handles cases between citizens. You usually need a lawyer for this.

Where can I get more information and help

Who	What	Contact
Centrum Seksueel Geweld/Sexual Assault Center	Psychological and medical assistance for victims of sexual offences their close friends and family	centrumseksueelgeweld.nl 0800 - 0188
Slachtofferhulp Nederland/ Victim Support Netherlands	Emotional, practical, and legal help for victims	slachtofferhulp.nl 0900 - 0101
Slachtofferloket/ Victim Support Desk	Overview of the various organizations working together to handle your case	mijnslachtofferzaak.nl
Schadefonds geweldsmisdrijven/ Violent Crimes Compensation Fund	Fund that may compensate victims of violent crimes for the damage they suffered.	schadefonds.nl +31 (0)70 - 414 20 00
Slachtofferwijzer	Overviews of all assistance options for victims and the people closest to them	slachtofferwijzer.nl
Perspectief Herstelbemiddeling	restorative victim-offender mediation	perspectiefherstelbemiddeling.nl +31 (0)30 - 234 00 45

Who	What	Contact
Slachtofferadvocaat	Specialized legal advice for victims of sexual offences	langzs.nl
Helpwanted	Advice for victims of online sexual offences	helpwanted.nl 020 - 261 52 75
Veilig Thuis	Advice and assistance regarding domestic violence and child abuse and for reporting these issues	veiligthuis.nl 0800 - 2000
Politie.nl	More information about what the police can do for you	Call 0900 - 8844

Help and information

Emergency 112

Are you deaf, hard of hearing or do you have a speech impediment?

Use e-SMS (after a one-off registration) or the 112NL app.

For more information, go to politie.nl/contact

Non-emergency, but police 0900 - 8844

Information and reporting a crime 0900 - 8844

Police tip-off line 0800 - 6070

Report Crime Anonymously 0800 - 7000

politie.nl

