

Victim of a criminal offence

YOUR RIGHTS WITH THE POLICE



politie.nl/slachtofferrechten



Are you a victim of a criminal offence? Or are you a surviving relative of a victim? If so, you have a number of rights. These rights also apply if you do not live in the Netherlands or if you have no residency status in the Netherlands.

1 Information

You have a right to be informed, not only about your rights, but also about reporting a crime and about what happens to your case after that. If you want, we will keep you informed about your case. If you have any questions about what happens to your case, you should call the police or the Public Prosecution Service. If any of your property has been seized, you have a right to be informed about this.



2 Free assistance

For free assistance, advice and information, you can contact a number of organisations, for example Victim Support Netherlands. Victim Support Netherlands can help you in a legal, practical and emotional area.



3 Protection

Do you fear for your safety? Are you afraid that you become a victim of another offence, for example? If so, you should talk to us about this. Together with you, we will assess what we can do to protect you and what action you can take yourself. Do you decide to report a criminal offence to the police? You can ask us not to put your address in your report, for example.



4 Reporting a criminal offence

Anyone may report a criminal offence to the police, including minors. There are several ways to report a criminal offence, for example through the Internet or by telephone. The best way for you to report a criminal offence also depends on what happened. Before reporting a criminal offence, you will be given information about what happens during your report and after that.



5 Representation

You may always be represented by a lawyer, for example during the report to the police or the criminal hearing. In a number of cases, you do not have to pay any lawyer's fees. If you want someone else to represent you, for example a friend, a family member or a staff member of Victim Support Netherlands, you can ask the police or the public prosecutor. If you are not allowed to do so, they will explain to you why not.



6 Interpreter

If you have difficulties understanding the Dutch language, you should ask us for an interpreter. If we arrange an interpreter for you, for example during the report to the police or the interview, this will be free of charge. If you want a written translation of the documents pertaining to your report or the criminal case, you should send a letter to the public prosecutor or the judge. Victim Support Netherlands or a lawyer can help you with this.



7 Compensation

Did you suffer damage as a result of the criminal offence and is there a suspect? If so, it is often possible to request compensation from the offender. The public prosecutor or the judge will then decide whether the offender has to compensate you for the damage. In some cases, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (*Schadefonds Geweldsmisdrijven*) can pay you compensation for your damage. A lawyer or Victim Support Netherlands can help you with this.



8 Contact with the offender

You may ask to come into contact with the suspect or offender. Victim Support Netherlands can refer you to organisations that will help you to come into contact with a suspect or offender. They will then ask the suspect or offender if he or she wants to come into contact with you as well. If this is the case, you are allowed to come into contact.



9 Fair treatment

The organisations you are in contact with about your case must treat you fairly. And they have to take account of what matters to you. If you think you are treated unfairly, you can submit a complaint to the organisation treating you unfairly.



10 Your other rights

As a victim, you also have other rights during the criminal proceedings.

- You may complain if the Public Prosecution Service decides that there will be no criminal case.
- You may request to inspect the records of the criminal case.
- You can be paid compensation if you have to testify.
- In a number of cases, you have a right to address the court.
- You have a right to be informed about any leave, release or escape of the suspect or offender.



Important telephone numbers

Emergency 112

Are you deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired? Use an e-text message (after one-time registration) or the 112NL app. More information can be found at www.politie.nl/contact

No emergency, but in need of police assistance

0900 - 8844

Deaf and hard of hearing people can use the contact form at www.politie.nl

Meld Misdaad Anoniem (Anonymous Crime Reporting)

0800 - 7000

Victim Support Netherlands

0900-0101

www.slachtofferhulp.nl

More information about your rights as a victim?

www.politie.nl/slachtoffer

<https://politie.steffie.nl>

Victim Guide (Slachtofferwijzer)

www.slachtofferwijzer.nl

Public Prosecution Service

www.om.nl

Name of police officer

Telephone:

E-mail:

This information is available in several languages on
the website: www.politie.nl/victim

