



I AM A VICTIM OF CRIME

WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?
HOW DO I MOVE FORWARD?

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Any of us may become victim of a crime. Regardless of the type of crime that occurred, whether it be theft or personal injury, it can injure a person or leave them upset. They often do not know what to do, their rights, or how to exercise them. It is critical that those affected by a crime (referred to as „victim“ in legislation) understand their rights and have the opportunity to find out about them in a comprehensible manner. It is also essential that they know what to expect from criminal proceedings and the procedure after filing a criminal complaint.

Important information about criminal proceedings and your rights as a victim or injured party in criminal proceedings is provided in this brochure.

It is intended to help you exercise your rights and explain how you can seek redress if a crime has been committed. It does not replace the instructions you receive from the police, the prosecutor’s office or the court. These authorities are obliged to explain your rights and obligations to you in an understandable manner. However, they do not always manage to do so in a way that someone who is in shock can remember all the necessary information. That is why this brochure summarises your rights and is at your disposal at any time.

Below you can note important information, such as the name and contact of the police officer with whom you filed a criminal complaint, and the file number that was assigned to your case:

**CONTACTS FOR VICTIM SUPPORT
ORGANISATIONS WHICH MAY ASSIST YOU**

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WHO IS A VICTIM?

It does not matter if you have filed a criminal complaint or if the perpetrator has been identified or prosecuted, a **victim is a natural person who was injured** physically, suffered damage, or was differently harmed as a result of a crime.

Anyone who feels like the victim of a crime is treated as such until the contrary is proven or it is clear that a victim's position is being abused. These will mainly be cases where a crime did not happen or when someone is trying to get „benefits“ from the position of a victim, e.g. seeking compensation for damage that was not the result of a crime.

Relatives of a person who died as a result of a crime are also considered victims. A relative is defined as a parent, child, sibling, spouse, adopted child, adopter, and person who lived with the deceased in the same household or was dependent on them.

The law recognises the category of **particularly vulnerable victims**. These include, in particular, children, people over the age of 75, people with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, and victims of human trafficking or any other crime against human dignity (e.g. rape, sexual abuse), victims of hate crimes, and victims of other crimes who are at a higher risk of victimisation (i.e.



further harm as a result of the crime, in the form of repeated threats, intimidation or continuation of the crime committed by the perpetrator, insensitive conduct on the part of state authorities or their inaction to provide protection). This higher risk is identified on the basis of an individual assessment and is linked to the victim's relationship or dependence on the perpetrator. Particularly vulnerable victims have additional rights and increased protection because of their status.

Anyone who feels like a victim of a crime is treated as such until the contrary is proven.

What basic rights do I have as a victim?

Every victim has the following rights, regardless of whether criminal proceedings are initiated or a criminal complaint is filed:

- **RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

You have the right to say what happened and how you were hurt. The police, the prosecutor or healthcare provider (doctor, psychologist) are obliged to listen to you and provide you with the necessary assistance.

- **RIGHT TO TREATMENT WITH DIGNITY, RESPECT, AND SENSITIVITY**

All state authorities are obliged to take into account the situation you are in and your needs. If the questions of a police officer, prosecutor or judge hurt you, or if their remarks seem out of place, you have the right to report them and ask them to change the way they are speaking to you or asking questions.

- **RIGHT TO PROFESSIONAL HELP AND SUPPORT**

You have the right to request professional support from one of the victim support organisations or from an intervention centre for victims of domestic violence. Professionally trained staff will help you with legal issues or provide psychological support. If necessary, they can help you arrange emergency housing, contact your family or obtain financial support.

- **RIGHT TO INFORMATION IN A UNDERSTANDABLE MANNER**

The police and the prosecutor's office have a duty to inform you about the possibility to file a criminal complaint, about the process and progress



of criminal proceedings, and contacts to organisations that can help you. Upon request, the police or the prosecutor's office will help you contact a victim support organisation, which will further address your needs.

Right to information at first contact



If you have become a victim of a crime, you have the right to receive information that should be provided to you at first contact. First contact is typically the first responding police officer, prosecutor, doctor or victim support organisation.

Do not be afraid to ask questions if there is something you do not understand.

This person should provide you with information in such a way that you can understand it and explain it to you properly. If you do not understand something, just ask. It is your right.

The police officer / prosecutor is obliged to provide you with information at first contact about:

- the processes involved in filing a criminal complaint and the rights and obligations of victims / injured parties in criminal proceedings (e.g. the right to be accompanied by a confidant, to appoint a representative, to have materials delivered and to review the case file),
- victim support organisations (contact details and the types of help and support they provide),
- options to receive necessary healthcare,
- access to legal aid,
- the conditions for providing of protection if there is a threat to your health, physical well-being or property (e.g. the possibility of expelling the perpetrator from the shared home, the right to file a claim for damages),
- the right to interpretation and translation,
- measures to protect your interests that you can apply if you reside in another EU Member State,

You have the right to all this information.

You have the right to have it explained and to be clearly told what the information means for you.

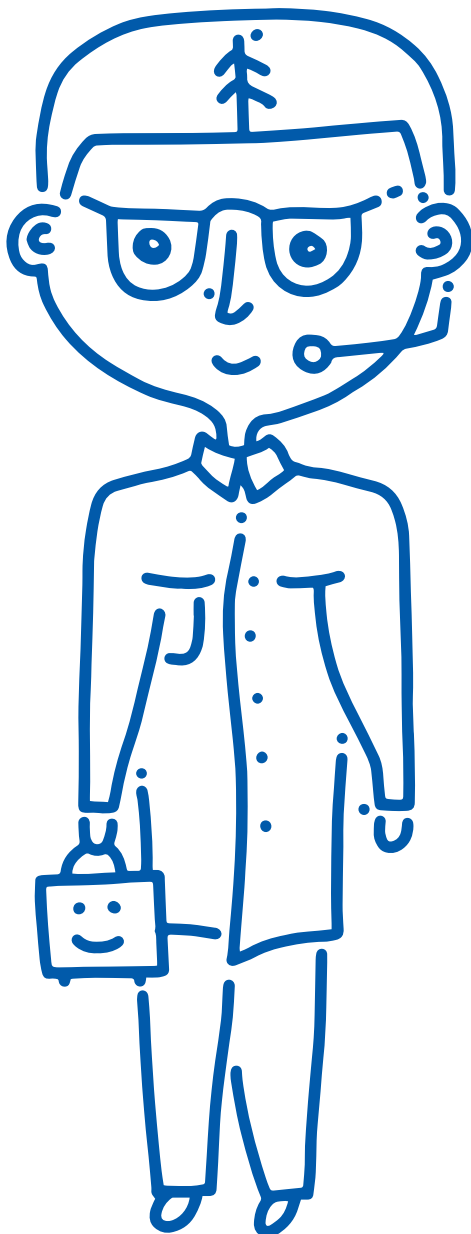
- procedures for seeking redress in the event of misconduct by the police and the prosecutor's office,
- contact details for communication related to the case in which you are the victim,
- procedures related to filing a claim for damages,
- mediation procedures in criminal proceedings,
- the options and conditions for reaching a settlement,
- options and conditions for reimbursement of the costs of criminal proceedings.

Upon request, the police or the prosecutor's office will help you contact a victim support organisation, which will further address your needs.

If you first seek medical help, staff at the healthcare facility is obliged to provide you with contact information for victim support organisations.

Victim support organisations will provide you with information about:

- the form and extent of professional help and support and to which extent it is provided free of charge,
- if they do not provide the professional support you need, they will refer you to another organisation which can help you,
- victims' rights, including the right to compensation,
- the rights you have as an injured party or witness in criminal proceedings,
- financial and practical matters.



CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

(basic information)



The main purpose of criminal proceedings is to clarify the committed crime, to determine the circumstances under which it was committed and to ensure fair punishment of the perpetrator.

CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS PRIMARILY DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING:

- whether an act that occurred may be considered a crime,
- who committed this act - the perpetrator,
- why and how the act was committed, the motive that led the perpetrator to commit it,
- classifying the act that was committed as a crime based on legislation,
- to whom and what damage was caused by the crime.

IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IT IS DECIDED ON:

- whether the conditions are met to convict

the perpetrator,

- punishment for the perpetrator (e.g. imprisonment, fine, forfeiture of property),
- if an agreement on guilt and punishment can be concluded or a settlement can be reached,
- the amount of damages and compensation to the victim.

CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS MAY BE DIVIDED INTO TWO MAIN PHASES:

- pre-trial proceedings, which are divided into:
 - pre-prosecution proceedings
 - preparatory proceedings
- court proceedings
 - judicial review of the indictment
 - main hearing
 - appellate proceedings
 - enforcement proceedings

Glossary (terms used in criminal proceedings)

POLICE OFFICER

The member of the Police Force in charge of the investigation.

PROSECUTOR

The role of the prosecutor is to defend society's interest in identifying crimes and punishing perpetrators fairly. In pre-trial proceedings, they supervise the police officer's actions and make the decision to file an indictment and initiate court proceedings.

COURT

Depending on the severity of the crime, a judge or group of judges known as a senate decides on guilt and punishment. The court decides on the basis of the indictment filed by the prosecutor, and decides on guilt and punishment for the perpetrator and compensation for the victim.

INDICTMENT

An indictment is a submission in which the perpetrator is identified, the act that occurred is described and classified as a specific crime under the legislation. It is filed by a prosecutor and upon its filing, court proceedings is initiated.

ACCUSED

The suspect (the person who allegedly committed the crime) is referred to as the 'accused' as soon as the police brings charges against them.

DEFENDANT

The moment the court schedules the main hearing, the accused becomes the defendant.

INJURED PARTY (the term used for a victim in criminal proceedings)

A person who has suffered physical injury, or suffered pecuniary or non-pecuniary damages or other damages, or whose rights and freedoms were violated or endangered.



Initiating criminal proceedings

Criminal proceedings is initiated by filing of a criminal complaint. The police will also initiate criminal proceedings if they learn from other sources that a crime has been committed.

A criminal complaint can be filed by anyone, in any police station, prosecutor's office or court. You may file such complaint if you are a victim or if you learn that someone around you has become a victim, has suffered damage or has committed a crime. The authorities (i.e. the police, the prosecutor's office, the courts) cooperate with each other and, if necessary, forward your complaint to the competent authority that will deal with it in more detail.

A criminal complaint can be filed in writing, verbally into the official register or electronically with an authorized electronic signature. It should include a description of the act that occurred, your contact details and, if you are the victim, a description of the damage caused to you, together with information if you are **seeking damages from the perpetrator**. The criminal complaint must not be anonymous, but, at your request, the

police officer or prosecutor will not specify your personal data in the file.

Once the criminal complaint has been filed, the police officer or prosecutor will **give you a written confirmation** which shall indicate when the complaint was filed, the authority which received it and brief description of the subject of the complaint. If you file a criminal complaint verbally into the official register, you will receive a copy of the record upon your request.

The police will then begin investigating your criminal complaint and determine if the act occurred, what happened and under what circumstances the act occurred. They begin collecting evidence related to the act. **You are not obliged to provide evidence, but it is your right to provide any evidence known to you.** If you have any evidence available (such as documents, receipts, SMS communication, photos, recordings), it is advisable that you submit them or report the names of witnesses who saw or heard what happened (or describe them if you do not know their name).

A criminal complaint can be filed by anyone, in any police, prosecutor's office or court. You will be issued a written confirmation once the criminal complaint is filed.

You have the right to be accompanied by a confidant, a person of your choice. It does not matter if they have a legal background, it is more important that you feel safe in their presence.

I cannot afford a lawyer...

You do not need legal representation to file a criminal complaint. Legal aid can be provided by victim support organisations, an intervention centre for victims of domestic violence or, under certain conditions, the Centre for Legal Aid. In the following stages of criminal proceedings, a lawyer / an attorney may be appointed at the state's expense.

I don't want to go to the police alone...

You have the right to be accompanied by a confidant at all times. They may be anyone, a friend, a family member, or an acquaintance. It is important that you feel safe with your confidant and they can support you. They primarily provide emotional support and cannot interfere in the course of the proceedings. Under certain circumstances, the police may not allow a confidant to be present during some questionings (if they disrupt the course of the proceedings) and then you have the right to choose another confidant.

I don't want a man to question me...

In the case of sexual violence, you have the right to have a person of the same gender question you. Should it be necessary to repeat the questioning, you have the right to have such questioning be conducted by the same person.

What if I cannot remember every detail?

It is important that you state everything you remember in the criminal complaint. You don't have to know what the crime is, all you have to do is describe in your own words what happened. You can think about it and write down any details you remember. You can bring these notes with you.

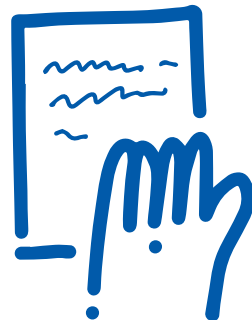
Can someone else file a criminal complaint for me?

You do not have to file a criminal complaint directly. However, if you are a victim of crime or a witness, your statement about what happened is crucial. Therefore, you will be summoned to answer questions about the crime.

I filed a criminal complaint and I want to withdraw it. What happens next?

A criminal complaint cannot be withdrawn. The police are obliged to investigate the complaint and find out what happened. However, for some crimes, your consent is required for the criminal proceedings to continue. You can revoke this consent at any time and the criminal proceedings will then be terminated, without the perpetrator being convicted or you receiving compensation for damages.

After filing a criminal complaint...



... the police officer can summon you again and ask you additional questions. However, they must always treat you with respect and try to explain everything to you so that you understand it. Before the questioning, they will inform you about your rights as

The police officer may make such decision if the act cannot be classified as a crime or a misdemeanour.

- **REFERRAL OF THE COMPLAINT TO THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY**

Prior to questioning, you will be informed about your rights as well as your obligation to tell the truth and not to keep anything secret.

well as about the obligation to tell the truth and not to keep anything secret. In some cases (especially for particularly vulnerable victims), the police officer is required to record your questioning on camera and so that you do not have to comment repeatedly on the events. This ensures you will not need to describe the events in detail again, avoiding the unnecessary trauma of reliving the crime all over again.

The phase following the filing of a criminal complaint is called the **pre-prosecution proceedings**. The police should decide within 30 days after the filing of the criminal complaint in one of the following ways:

- **REJECTION OF A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AND TERMINATION OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS**

If the act is not a criminal offence and the police officer considers it a misdemeanour or other administrative offence, they have to refer the complaint to the competent authority. The filed complaint is then reviewed and, if necessary, misdemeanour proceedings will be initiated.

- **DEFERRAL OF THE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**
These are mainly cases where the perpetrator has died, is not criminally liable by age (i.e. they were not 14 years old at the time the act took place) or if the victim has not given consent to the criminal proceedings.

- **CRIMINAL PROSECUTION BEGINS**
If there is no reason for refusal, referral, or deferral of the criminal complaint, the police officer initiates criminal prosecution.

How will I be told to come in for questioning?

The summons, including information on where and when you are to arrive, will usually be delivered to you by post, but you can also be summoned by a phone call.

What if I cannot appear at the police for questioning on the specified day and time?

In this case, you are obliged to excuse yourself and state the reason why you cannot come (e.g. confirmation from your doctor). Your employer must allow you to go for questioning.

Can I refuse to attend questioning?

It is crucial for a proper criminal investigation that you give a statement during questioning as a victim. However, you have the right to refuse to attend the questioning if the perpetrator is your family relative or if by your statement you could potentially incriminate yourself as the perpetrator. The police officer is obliged to inform you about this right and to warn you of the consequences if you decide not to attend the questioning.

I don't want to say everything...

It is important that you tell the truth about everything you know and keep nothing secret. You must not lie during questioning; otherwise

you could be prosecuted for perjury.

Will there be a record of my questioning?

Minutes are taken during questioning, which is a transcript of what was said. This means that it will list every question and all your answers. These minutes will be presented to you for signing; you have the right to study them, propose corrections, request a copy and, if necessary, refuse to sign them.

How will I know the police officer's decision?

If you have reported a crime or are a victim of a crime, the police officer is obliged to deliver all decisions to you. This decision will be delivered to the address you provided in the criminal complaint.

The police officer rejected to initiate criminal proceedings, what can I do?

You may file a complaint against a decision made by a police officer to reject, refer, or defer the complaint with the issuing officer within 3 business days after delivery or notification of such decision. The prosecutor will then review your complaint if the police officer does not decide to change the decision in the way you demanded.

You may be summoned again for questioning. During such questioning, you have the right to be treated with respect and in a considerate manner. If you are unable to attend the questioning on a specified day and time, it is important to inform the competent police officer in advance. In some cases, you have the right to refuse to attend the questioning. The police officer is obliged to inform you about this and your other rights.

Preparatory proceedings

This phase of criminal proceedings follows the police officer's decision to initiate criminal prosecution. The person who committed the crime does not need to be known to initiate prosecution; it is sufficient that an act, the police officer classifies as a crime, occurred.

The primary objective is to obtain and secure all evidence for use in further proceedings.

Such evidence serves to clarify what happened, to whom, what damage was caused and who the perpetrator was. Therefore, it includes an investigation or a shortened investigation. The type of investigation that takes place depends on the seriousness of the crime committed.

If there is a sufficiently reasonable suspicion that the offence was committed by a specific person, the police / prosecutor will **press charges against this person**. This person is then referred to as the accused. The court can decide whether the accused will be released or taken into custody for the rest of the proceedings. In some cases, the court may issue a **restraining order prohibiting the**

accused to contact you (which includes phone calls, SMS and emails) in order to protect you or your loved ones. It is important for your safety that you ask if this is an option in your case. At this stage, **you may be summoned as a witness**, and you may be questioned by the accused or his or her lawyer. They are obliged to treat you with respect and dignity, you may be asked questions only after you have been allowed to make your statement and after the police have asked you their questions. **You have the right to ask the police / prosecutor to exclude the accused from attending your questioning if you do not wish it or if you are uncomfortable in their presence.**

Preparatory proceedings are **supervised by a prosecutor**. If you have any doubts as to the police officer's conduct or you believe they are taking too long to act, and you do not have any information about the developments in your case, you may request the **prosecutor to review the police officer's conduct**. The police officer is obliged to submit this request to the prosecutor, who will examine it and then inform you about the results of the review.

The claim for damages must be filed before the end of the investigation. It should state at least the minimum amount of damages claimed from the perpetrator. If you do not claim damages, they will not be decided on in the criminal proceedings. You can also apply for compensation from state, the application can be made after filling of a criminal complaint. The Ministry of Justice will decide on compensation from state, for more information on state compensation please contact the Ministry of Justice.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS AS AN INJURED PARTY? (a victim's name in criminal proceedings)

- **RIGHT TO TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING**

If you do not understand Slovak language very well, you have the right to an interpretation and a translation of decisions into a language you understand. The costs of interpretation and translation are borne by the state.

- **RIGHT TO INFORMATION ABOUT THE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS, ON THE INITIATION OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS / INDICTMENT**

You have the right to have all important decisions delivered to you. You also have the right to contact the police at any time, who will provide you with information on the developments of the proceedings and what actions they have taken.

- **RIGHT TO VIEW FILES, TO TAKE NOTES AND MAKE COMMENTS, AND TO MAKE PROPOSALS FOR THE INVESTIGATION**

You have this right through the whole criminal proceedings. If the police officer considers that they have already gathered all the evidence and want to end the investigation, they are obliged to allow you to review the case file and submit proposals for further investigation.

- **RIGHT TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CONFIDANT AND / OR A REPRESENTATIVE**

For the purposes of most tasks (e.g. review of the file, submission of various proposals), you can be represented by a representative who will do them on your behalf. The representative does not have to be a lawyer and can be the same person as your confidant. A confidant is there to provide you with emotional support.



- **RIGHT TO CLAIM DAMAGES FROM THE PERPETRATOR**

A claim for damages can only be filed until the end of the investigation. It is important that you do not miss this deadline and file this claim by your stage at the latest. Victims of violent crime can claim compensation from state after criminal proceedings have been initiated. The compensation thus paid will then be recovered from the perpetrator by the Ministry of Justice. It is important that you claim damages from the perpetrator even if you apply for compensation at the Ministry of Justice.

Prior to indictment...

The preparatory proceedings can end in several ways, and the prosecutor issues a decision for every one of them. You will always be informed about any decision made. These decisions include:

- **SUSPENSION OF CRIMINAL PROSECUTION**

If a police officer based on an investigation finds that the offence did not occur, is not a criminal act or a misdemeanour, or the accused is not criminally liable, they shall suspend the criminal prosecution. If it is determined that the act was not committed by the accused, criminal prosecution will only be terminated against this person. The criminal proceedings itself will continue and the perpetrator will be searched for.

- **REFERRAL OF THE CASE**

If it is found that the act is not a criminal offence but a misdemeanour, the matter will be referred to the competent authority.

- **CONDITIONAL SUSPENSION OF CRIMINAL PROSECUTION**

This is only possible in the case of certain offences and provided that the accused confessed to the offence, compensates for the damages they have caused and such manner of ending the case is considered

sufficient (e.g. given the severity of the crime, its circumstances, and the manner in which the accused conducts themselves).

- **APPROVAL OF A SETTLEMENT**

If the accused has confessed to the crime and compensated victim for the damages, it is possible (for some crimes) that a settlement can be reached between the accused and the injured party/victim. The settlement must be approved by the prosecutor. As an injured party, you have the right to propose the conclusion of a settlement and its conditions, but you do not have to agree to a proposal made by the accused, nor to conclude the settlement.

- **AGREEMENT ON GUILT AND PUNISHMENT**

If the accused has confessed to committing a crime, the prosecutor may initiate proceedings for conclusion of an agreement on guilt and punishment. The prosecutor will notify you and, as the injured party, will invite you to participate in the process. If you do not come to the prosecutor's office on the set day and do not excuse yourself, the prosecutor may agree with the accused on damages for you. The prosecutor is obliged to ensure that your claim for damages is fairly represented.

Criminal proceedings can also end without a trial. One way is to approve a settlement between the victim and the perpetrator, where your consent is required. It is your right to make such settlement, not your duty. Any pressure from the perpetrator should be reported to the relevant police officer/prosecutor, who is obliged to protect you.



If an agreement on guilt and punishment is approved, the accused will be obliged to pay the agreed damages.

- **FILING OF AN INDICTMENT**

The prosecutor will file an indictment in court if the criminal proceedings have not ended in any of the previous ways. In the indictment, they shall state a description of the act, its classification as a criminal offence, who is the accused/perpetrator, and indicate the evidence. Court proceedings is initiated by the filing of an indictment. The indictment will be delivered to you together with a request to suggest which evidence should be presented in the court hearing.

Will these decisions be delivered to me?

All decisions concerning criminal proceedings will be delivered to you. If you have been represented by a representative or a lawyer, these decisions will be delivered to them.

I do not agree with the delivered decision, what should I do?

You have the right to file a complaint within 3 business days after receiving one of the mentioned decision.

Neither a decision approving the settlement nor a decision of the court approving an agreement on guilt and punishment can be challenged.

Court proceedings after indictment

The court **reviews the delivered indictment** to verify that all conditions for filing it were met, decides which evidence will be presented in the court hearing (e.g. whether the witnesses will be summoned or his or her statement will only be read) and sets a date for the main hearing.

When reviewing the indictment, the court may also decide to return the case to a previous stage (preparatory proceedings), or to terminate criminal prosecution. If the court finds that it would be possible to conclude a settlement, the court may propose it and subsequently approve it if you agree to settlement.

evidence, it is no longer possible to submit further or new evidence.

At the end of the hearing (a number of hearings may be held) you have **the right to deliver a final statement**. Its content is not precisely defined, so it is up to you what you decide to say in it. You can bring notes with you. If you have a representative or a lawyer, they may deliver the final statement on your behalf.

Once the final statements from all parties have been delivered, the court takes a recess to deliberate and decides whether a crime has

The court should ensure that you do not feel threatened by the perpetrator before or during the hearing. You can ask the court to take necessary steps to ensure that you don't have to wait with the perpetrator in one waiting room.

The main hearing is the most important part of the criminal proceedings. Witnesses are questioned again, evidence (various documents) is submitted and read, or an expert may participate at the hearing.

As the **injured party, you have the right to attend the main hearing** and propose evidence to be considered by the court.

Likewise, you can comment on the evidence that has already been presented. Once the court has declared the end for submitting of

been committed, what kind of crime the act is and whether the defendant is guilty.

The court's decision will then be made public and will be delivered in writing. The court will also decide on the claim for damages, i.e. determine the amount and how the perpetrator is obliged to pay it. If it is not possible to determine the exact amount of damages in criminal proceedings, the court will refer you to civil proceedings. In this case, you do not bear the costs of civil proceedings.

I don't want to wait in the waiting room with the accused, can this be arranged?

Yes, the president of the senate is obliged to take the necessary measures to prevent you from coming into contact with the accused. You can also request that the accused not be present during your testimony.

Will I receive all decisions?

Any decision that is issued (judgement, resolution, order) will always be delivered to you as an injured party. If you have appointed a representative, it will be delivered directly to them.

I do not agree with the court's decision, what can I do?

You have the right to appeal against the decision in the part concerning the claim for damages or concerning the costs of the proceedings. Depending on the type of decision, it is possible to file an appeal (within 15 days), a complaint (within 3 business days) or a protest (within 8 business days). The delivered decision will state exactly what remedy (appeal, complaint or protest) is available to you, by when and where you can file it.

I have incurred costs by attending the hearing, is it possible to be reimbursed for them?

If you testified at the hearing as a witness, you have the right to reimbursement. This covers both the reimbursement of necessary expenses (e.g. travel costs) and lost wages. The reimbursement must be claimed within 3 days after questioning/hearing took place and



the exact amount of reimbursement has to be calculated within 15 days.

I have appointed a representative / lawyer, is it possible to obtain reimbursement for the costs of their participation in the proceedings?

When awarding damages, the court will also decide on the reimbursement of your costs related to filing your claim for damages in criminal proceedings. This means that the court will decide what costs the perpetrator is obliged to reimburse, including the costs associated with appointing a representative / lawyer.

After the court proceedings...

The end of the court proceedings and the conviction of the perpetrator is usually followed by enforcement proceedings. The perpetrator is obliged to serve the sentence imposed on them by the court. The sentences range from a financial penalty, imprisonment, home imprisonment, to a ban on attending public events. The court may also impose appropriate restrictions on the perpetrator, e.g. compliance with a restraining order.

The convicted perpetrator is **obliged to reimburse you for the damages specified in the decision**. If the convicted person does not fulfil this obligation after the decision enters into force, you can enforce it through an executor. The executor will then perform the actions necessary to obtain your damages, e.g. by selling the convicted person's property, or deducting a portion of their wages.

However, as a victim / injured party, you have additional rights at the end of the criminal proceedings. These concern both your safety and compensation.

is that a criminal proceedings must be initiated and the results of the investigation must not raise doubts whether the victim suffered harm as a result of a crime. The application for state compensation may be filed with the Ministry of Justice repeatedly during the criminal proceedings (when new facts are discovered), but no later than within 1 year from the date of entry into force of the final decision in the criminal proceedings. **The form and more detailed information on compensation can be found on the Ministry of Justice's website.**

- **RIGHT TO BE INFORMED ON THE RELEASE OR ESCAPE OF AN ACCUSED PERSON FROM DETENTION, A CONVICTED PERSON FROM IMPRISONMENT, FROM AN INSTITUTIONAL HEALTHCARE FACILITY, OR FROM A DETENTION FACILITY**

You have the right to decide whether you want to be informed about the release or escape of the perpetrator from one of these facilities. Such information is primarily intended for your own protection should the perpetrator want to find you or threatens you loved ones.

As a victim of crime, you have additional rights after the end of the criminal proceedings.

- **RIGHT TO STATE COMPENSATION**

If you are a victim of a violent crime, you can apply to the Ministry of Justice for compensation from the state. Compensation is provided for health injury and, in the case of certain criminal offences, for non-pecuniary damages. The basic condition for applying for state compensation

You can change this decision at any time and the police, the prosecutor and the court will take it into account. However, if your life or health are in danger, the police / prosecutor / court will inform you of the perpetrator's release, or escape, even if you do not wish to be informed.



• RIGHT TO PROFESSIONAL HELP AND SUPPORT

You have the right to professional help and support even after the criminal proceedings. If you still need psychological aid or assistance in exercising your rights as a victim, you have the right to receive such support.

Can the perpetrator contact me after the criminal proceedings?

The perpetrator may find you or try to contact you during or after the criminal proceedings. The role of the police, the prosecutor's office and the court is to prevent the perpetrator from endangering you again, and they are obliged to do everything possible to all possible threats.

Contact the police if the perpetrator makes contact and it makes you uncomfortable. If the perpetrator threatens you, such threat is a crime and they may be sentenced again even more severely.

Is there some way to prevent the perpetrator from contacting me?

If you live in the same household as the perpetrator, the police can prohibit them from entering the premises for 14 days immediately after the police were called and / or a criminal complaint is filed. The perpetrator is then forbidden to enter the shared apartment or house. Subsequently, the police will instruct you about the possibility of filing a motion with the court to issue a restraining order, which may prohibit access to the same household for a longer period of time.

It is also possible to file a motion for a restraining order against a perpetrator who does not live with you in the same household. The court may prohibit them from approaching your residence, workplace or any other place, or from contacting you in any way (including by phone or e-mail).

INFO

IMPORTANT CONTACTS



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

<u>Integrated Rescue System</u>	<u>112</u>
<u>Police</u>	<u>158</u>
<u>Child safety hotline</u>	<u>116 111</u>
<u>Missing children hotline</u>	<u>116 000</u>
<u>Children's helpline</u>	<u>055/234 72 72</u>
<u>Centre for Labour, Social Affairs, and Family hotline to report neglect</u>	<u>0800 191 222</u>
<u>National hotline for women</u>	<u>0800 212 212</u>
<u>Prosecutor's office hotline for reporting domestic abuse</u>	
	<u>0800 300 700</u>
<u>Human trafficking victims hotline</u>	<u>0800 800 818</u>

<https://www.justice.gov.sk/>

<https://detstvobeznasilia.gov.sk/>

<https://www.zastavmenasilie.gov.sk/>

<https://prevenciakriminality.sk/p/pomoc-obetiam/>

<https://pomocpreobete.gov.sk/>





www.eeagrants.sk

The project **Enhancing the efficiency of the justice system through the protection/empowerment of victims and vulnerable parties** is supported by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants. Co-financed by the State Budget of the Slovak Republic. The given information reflects the views of the author. The program administrator is not responsible for any information included in the document.

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