

VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

Victims' rights

A new *Victims of Crime Act* became law in the Yukon in April 2011. A Victims' Bill of Rights is an important part of this new law.

Who is a victim?

A victim of crime is someone who has suffered harm as the result of an offence. The law identifies five kinds of harm:

- bodily injury;
- mental injury;
- emotional pain;
- economic loss; and
- loss of property.

You can be considered a victim under the *Victims of Crime Act* even if no charge has been laid or the accused has not been convicted.

Other victims

A victim could also be a family member or guardian who has been harmed by the offence:

- A person might suffer harm because of an offence against someone else. For example, a person who sees a close relative assaulted might suffer emotional pain.
- If the victim is a young child or cannot exercise the rights granted by the Act, the guardian, nearest relative or spouse can receive information and services for him or her.

Victims of crime have rights

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The Victims' Bill of Rights in the *Victims of Crime Act* includes these rights:

- the right to information about the justice system;
- the right to express their views;
- the right to have their property returned when it is no longer needed as evidence; and
- the right to have their needs considered when victim programs and services are developed.

The Victims' Bill of Rights also includes three basic rights:

- Victims have the right to be treated with courtesy, caring and respect;
- Victims have the right to privacy; and
- Victims have the right to expect that the justice system will do what it can to reduce their inconvenience and protect them from intimidation and retaliation.

**You can contact the Victim Services Unit
at any point.**

For more information

If you would like more information about the *Victims of Crime Act*, please contact the Victim Services Unit:

phone: 867-667-8500

toll-free outside Whitehorse 1-800-661-0408, ext. 8500

All calls are confidential.

RCMP

To contact the police in your community, please call your local prefix, followed by 5555. For example, in Watson Lake, call 536-5555; in Teslin, call 390-5555.

If it is an emergency, phone 911.

Other contact numbers

Whitehorse General Hospital 867-393-8700

For 24-hour service call Victim Link at 1-800-563-0808