

Information for victims of crime

tell the police

Crime should always be reported without delay. It is much easier for the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to help you if you personally report the crime, if that is possible. In an emergency use the 999 telephone system, otherwise go to, or telephone, your local police station. A Crimestoppers Freephone is also available (24 hour service) to anyone wishing to remain anonymous. The PSNI can offer specialist help to victims of domestic violence, sexual crime, hate-related incidents and to families of murder victims. The PSNI will pass your details to Victim Support Northern Ireland (VSNI) and other criminal justice organisations, who may be able to offer you a service, unless you ask them not to. Free crime prevention advice is also available from the PSNI to anyone who requests it.

PSNI

Website: www.psni.police.uk
Emergency Tel: 999
Non emergency Tel: 0845 600 8000
Crimestoppers Tel: 0800 555 111

victim support northern ireland

Victim Support Northern Ireland (VSNI) is an independent charity for people affected by crime, including people going to court as a witness. The service is free and confidential and provides information, a listening service and practical support to help you cope with crime. You can get in contact with VSNI if you need help or advice.

Victim Support Northern Ireland

Website: www.victimsupportni.co.uk
Tel: 028 9024 4039 or 0845 3030900
Email: info@victimsupportni.org.uk

will it go to court?

The police send a case file to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) if the evidence shows that a criminal offence has been committed by someone who can be identified.

If the PPS prosecutor decides that there is enough evidence to prosecute, and that it is in the public interest to do so, the prosecutor will prepare the papers. Victims will be notified of this decision and also of the outcome of the prosecution.

PPS

Website: www.ppsni.gov.uk
Tel: 028 9054 2444
Email: info@ppsni.gsi.gov.uk

getting compensation

If you have been injured or your property damaged as a result of crime you may be entitled to claim Government compensation from the Compensation Agency.

Helpful guidance on both criminal injuries and criminal damage compensation is available from police stations, Victim Support Northern Ireland (VSNI) offices and Citizens Advice Bureaux, as well as from the Agency (see details below).

It is important that you report the injuries or damage to the police immediately. There are time limits for submitting a compensation claim.

VSNI can provide you with FREE advice and assistance in making a claim for criminal injuries compensation and will help you through the whole process. VSNI does not take a percentage from any award made.

Compensation Agency

Website: www.nidirect.gov.uk/index/information-and-services/crime-justice-and-the-law/victims-of-crime/compensation-for-victims-of-crime.htm
Tel: 028 9024 9944
Email: comp-agency@nics.gov.uk

further information

For a step by step guide on how the criminal justice system operates, including helpful information on each of the organisations involved in the process, you can visit the victim and witness interactive walkthroughs at www.cjsni.gov.uk or refer to the Guide to Northern Ireland's Criminal Justice System for Victims and Witnesses of Crime, which is available from your local police station or Victim Support office. It can also be viewed at www.nidirect.gov.uk or www.cjsni.gov.uk.

If you have been a victim of crime in the Republic of Ireland, you may want to seek help from:

the crime victims helpline

Website: www.crimevictimshelpline.ie
Tel: 116 006
Email: info@crimevictimshelpline.ie

other help

There are many other voluntary organisations which exist to help victims. They provide their services free and in the strictest confidence. These include:

child services

Childline

Website: www.childline.org.uk
Freephone: 0800 1111
(24 hour service)

NSPCC

Website: www.nspcc.org.uk
Freephone: 0808 800 5000
(24 hour service)
Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

domestic violence

Men's Advisory Project (MAP)

Website: www.mapni.co.uk
Tel: 028 9024 1929
Email: info@mapni.co.uk

Women's Aid

Website: www.niwaf.org
Tel: 028 9024 9041
24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline:
0800 917 1414
Email: info@womensaidni.org

hate related crime/incidents

Cara-Friend

Website: cara-friend.org.uk
Email: admin@cara-friend.org.uk
Tel: 028 9089 0202

Multi-Cultural Resource Centre

Website: www.mcrc-ni.org
Tel: 028 9024 4639
Email: info@mcrc-ni.org

Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities

Website: www.nicem.org.uk
Tel: 028 9023 8645

Rainbow Project

Website: www.rainbow-project.org
Tel: 028 90319030
Email: info@rainbow-project.org

sexual abuse

Nexus Institute NI

Website: www.nexusinstitute.org
Tel: 028 9032 6803
Email: info@nexusinstitute.org

Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre

Website: www.rapecrisisni.com
Tel: 028 9032 9002
Email: info@rapecrisisni.com

victim information schemes

Mentally Disordered Offenders' Victim Information Scheme

Tel: 028 9052 7612
Email: jpd.public@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

Prisoner Release Victim Information Scheme

Website: www.nidirect.gov.uk/prisoner-release-victim-information-scheme
Tel: 0845 247 0002
Email: NIPRVIS@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

Probation Board for NI Victim Information Scheme

Website: www.pbni.org.uk
Tel: 028 9032 1972
Email: victimsunit@pbni.gsi.gov.uk

other helpful services

Age Sector Platform

Website: www.agesectorplatform.org
Tel: 028 9031 2089
Email: info@agesectorplatform.org

Brakecare

Website: www.brake.org.uk
Telephone helpline: 0845 603 8570
Email: helpline@brake.org.uk

Disability Action

Website: www.disabilityaction.org
Tel: 028 9029 7880
Email: hq@disabilityaction.org

Mencap

Website: www.mencap.org.uk
Tel: 0808 808 1111
Email: helpline.ni@mencap.org.uk

Migrant Helpline

Website: www.migranthepline.org.uk
Tel: 01304 203 977
Email: mhl@migranthepline.org

Road Trauma Support

Tel: 028 9054 1172

Support After Murder and Manslaughter

Website: www.samm.org.uk
Tel: 028 9442 9009
Email: pam.surphlis_samm.ni@live.co.uk

Voice UK

(A national charity supporting people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable people who have experienced crime or abuse.)

Website: www.voiceuk.org.uk
Telephone helpline: 080 880 2 8686
Email: helpline@voiceuk.org.uk

Local offices of these organisations are listed in the telephone directory. There are many other voluntary organisations and government agencies which may be able to provide the help you need. The organisations listed above will help to put you in touch with them. VSNI in particular has a database of organisations offering support services.

Useful information can also be found on nidirect at: www.nidirect.gov.uk/index/information-and-services/crime-justice-and-the-law/victims-and-witnesses-of-crime.htm



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