Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime Factsheet

The Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime promotes the rights of victims of crime when they engage with justice agencies in the ACT criminal justice system. It legislates victims' rights to **safety**, **privacy**, **dignity** and **participation**.

Victims of crime have specific rights in the following areas:

- respectful engagement and protections for safety and privacy
- access to support services and legal and financial assistance
- information on the processes of justice administration
- information on investigations, proceedings and decisions
- participation in proceedings.

A number of **justice agencies** work with victims of crime and must uphold their rights, including:

- Victim Support ACT, including the Victims Register
- ACT Policing
- ACT Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- ACT Corrective Services
- ACT Courts and Tribunals (in an administrative capacity)
- the Sentence Administration Board
- the Restorative Justice Unit.

All justice agencies must uphold core rights, including:

- engage with victims respectfully and consider their personal situation, needs, concerns, rights and dignity
- make sure victims can access any assistance they need to participate in the criminal justice system, like an interpreter or intermediary
- keep victims' personal information private unless it can be shared in a court case by law, or with the victim's agreement
- if the victim is under 18, consider their views, wishes and circumstances before engaging with their parent.

Justice agencies must also uphold human rights under the *Human Rights Act 2004* and any specific rights for their agency. Details about victims' rights for specific justice agencies are on the ACT Human Rights Commission website.

Victims of crime can make a complaint about a justice agency if they believe their rights have not been upheld.

They can:

- make a complaint to that justice agency directly
- raise a concern with the Victims of Crime Commissioner, through Victim Support ACT
- make a complaint about victims' rights to the ACT Human Rights Commission.