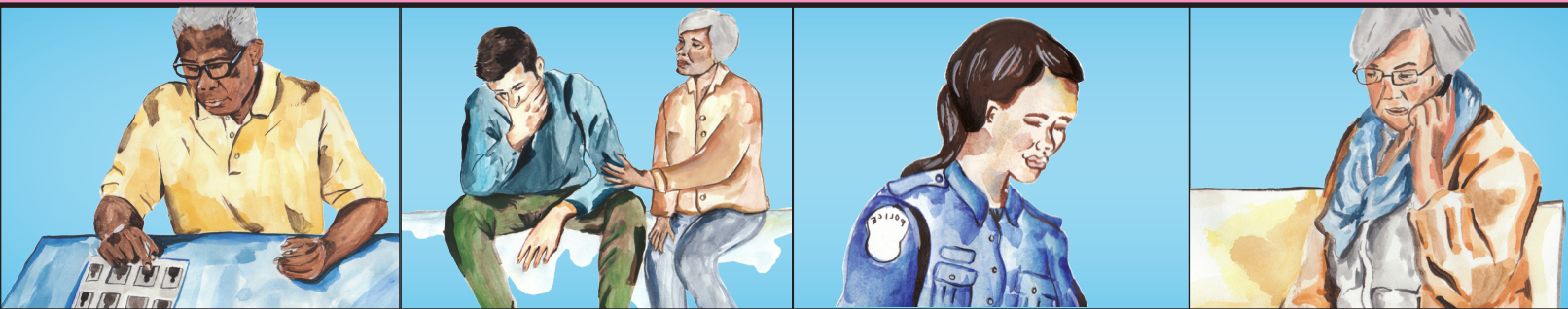


How To Report a Crime to Police



HELP FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

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Communication Disabilities Access Canada

Ending Violence Association of BC

Inclusion BC

Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division, Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Provincial Office of Domestic Violence

PROJECT VIDEOS

How to Report a Crime When You Have a Communication Disability

How to Report a Crime to Police

What to do if You Have Been Sexually Assaulted

Being a Witness and Testifying in Court

How to Write Your Victim Impact Statement

What Happens When You Go to Court

What Happens When You Report Being a Victim of a Crime (Sign Language Series Videos)

PROJECT HELP SHEETS

How to Report a Crime to Police

What to do if You Have Been Sexually Assaulted

Going to Court and Being a Witness

How to Write Your Victim Impact Statement

ORIGINAL PROJECT ILLUSTRATIONS

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If you've been a victim of a crime, like sexual assault or robbery, it's your choice when and how to report it to the police.

If you've been sexually assaulted, you can make a report, even if the crime happened a long time ago. If you report it right away, it will make it easier for police to gather information about what happened.



Reasons You Might be Worried About Talking to Police

Some people are worried or even afraid about talking to police.

- ✓ You might have had a scary experience with police before.
- ✓ Or, you may think police won't understand you.

It might help if you:

- ✓ Find someone to support you when you report the crime.
- ✓ Understand your legal rights.



Reporting a Crime to the Police

You can report the crime to police by phone or by going to the police station. Police officers may come to your home to talk with you.

If you were physically or sexually assaulted or attacked, police might go with you to the exact place where it happened.

Usually, the police will ask you questions and take your report (or statement) about the crime at the police station.

You should tell the police everything you can remember, like:

- ✓ What happened
- ✓ Where it happened
- ✓ When it happened
- ✓ and, if you know the person who committed the crime

These questions may be scary or hard for you to answer. You can bring someone with you for support, like a friend, family member, elder or Victim Assistance Program Worker.

Police need as many details as possible to help find the offender (the person who harmed you). If you'd be more comfortable talking to a male or female officer, tell the police.

It's ok to tell the police officer you need to take a break if you are upset. It's also ok to tell them that you don't understand a question, or if you forgot, or if you don't know something.



Signing Your Police Statement

Once your written statement is ready, you'll be asked to read and sign it. If you need help with reading and understanding the statement, you can ask for help from your support person or sign language interpreter.



Take your time with the report and make sure it says everything you want to say. Your signature means you're saying everything in the report is true and correct.

If there is something that's NOT right, ask the police officer to change it.

Before You Leave the Police Station

Ask the police officer for a copy of your statement and ask for their business card with the police file number written on it. You may want to contact them later, if you remember more details or have questions.

What Happens Next?

The police will try to find the person who committed the crime. If you can show or tell the police who committed the crime, the police will call that person a suspect – someone they believe may have committed the crime.

If the police believe they have found the person, they may talk with the Crown Counsel (the lawyer for the government) who decides if the investigation should go ahead. If they do, the police may:

- ✓ Contact you again to ask if you have any new information.
- ✓ Arrest the person who may have committed the crime.



Do You Need a Communication Intermediary?

Communication Disabilities Access Canada has a Canada-wide list of communication intermediaries. See their list at: <http://www.access-to-justice.org/>