



Northern
Territory
Government

CRIME VICTIMS SERVICES UNIT

Northern Territory
Charter for Victims of Crime

**a safe
Territory**

A Territory Government initiative

www.safeterritory.nt.gov.au

Northern Territory Charter for Victims of Crime

The Northern Territory is committed to recognising and enforcing the rights of people who have been affected by crime. We have strengthened this commitment by the implementation of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2006* and the *Victims of Crime Rights and Services Act 2006*. Together, these Acts aim to assist victims of crime to regain the quality and control of their lives.

Alcohol is a major factor contributing to violent crime in the Northern Territory. In 2008/09, at least 58% of all assaults in the Northern Territory were alcohol related. The NT Government is serious about ensuring the safety of Territorians and is proactive in addressing alcohol related issues. Alcohol Management Plans are being developed in partnership with urban, regional and remote communities. Evidence shows that generally there has been a decrease in alcohol related harms where these plans are in place. Alcohol supply and demand factors form the basis of interventions that ensure the safety of Territorians and are consistent with the Territory lifestyle.

While preventing crime and punishing those who commit it should always be the priority of government, at the same time we focus on the safety and well-being of victims of crime. To that end, the Charter recognises the impact of crime on the individual victim and also on the broader community. The Charter sets standards for the treatment of victims and lists the services available in the community. Some of these services are established for the specific purpose of assisting individuals, families or groups, in an effort to reduce further victimisation.

Victims of crime where the offender is sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the Northern Territory are also eligible to be placed on the Victims Register. Registered persons will be given information about an offender including pending Parole Board hearings and dates of release from prison.

However, a Charter alone cannot change the way the Territory Government interacts with people affected by crime. We have therefore also implemented programs and initiatives that assist police, prosecutors and the courts in their understanding of the implications of crime for people affected by it. These measures together will significantly enhance the way in which victims of crime feel supported and assisted.

Am I a victim?

A victim is someone who has suffered because of a crime. There may also be other people, such as witnesses, family members and friends who have suffered as a result of the same crime.

How you can expect to be treated

As a victim of crime you can be assured that you will be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity.

The police and prosecution along with victim services will take into account any specific needs you have with reference to differences such as:

- indigenous or cultural background;
- gender;
- cultural or linguistic diversity;
- sexual orientation;
- disability;
- religion; and
- age.

Access to Information

During the progress of the investigation or prosecution of the crime, you can ask to receive information from the NT Police and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions including:

- regular updates on the progress of police investigations, unless to do so would jeopardise the investigation;
- the charges laid against any person accused of the crime, and any changes to these charges;
- the reasons for not laying charges or for not prosecuting the accused person;
- where and when the matter is to come before a court;
- the trial process, and the rights and responsibilities of witnesses;
- whether or not bail has been granted, and any bail conditions relating to protecting you from the accused;
- the reasons for accepting a plea of guilty to a lesser charge; and
- the outcome of criminal proceedings and the sentence, if one is imposed.

You can expect to be provided with clear, transparent and timely information about relevant support agencies, possible entitlements and any legal assistance available to you.

Your protection

You can ask to be kept informed of the outcome of any bail application by the accused. If bail is granted you will be informed of any special conditions imposed to protect you or your family members. Your protection and welfare can be taken into account when granting bail.

Vulnerable Witness Provisions

In some circumstances, victims and witnesses are entitled to be protected as vulnerable witnesses, allowing you to give evidence by closed circuit television, or to be screened from the accused person. The prosecutor may need to make an application to the Court before these provisions can be used.

Your chance to be heard

You have a right to make a victim impact statement if the accused person is found guilty of the offence. This is your chance to tell the Court how the crime has affected you.

Your privacy

Personal information including your telephone number and address will not be disclosed to the accused unless otherwise required by legislation.

Care and return of your property

Any property of yours held for the purpose of investigation or prosecution will be handled with care. At your request your property may be returned to you if appropriate.

Financial assistance

You may ask the prosecutor to apply for a court order that the person convicted of a property offence pay you restitution. If you were injured as a result of a crime, you may also qualify for financial assistance. Details of the financial assistance available can be obtained by contacting the Crime Victims Services Unit on 1800 460 363 or emailing cvsu.doj@nt.gov.au.

Victims Register

The Victims Register is a Northern Territory Government initiative that has been established to address the concerns of victims of crime. The Victims Register is a database which enables the Crime Victims Services Unit to provide victims of violent and sexual crimes, or other concerned persons with certain information about the offender(s). It also allows victims to make written submissions to the Parole Board in relation to the relevant offender.

Information you provide will remain strictly confidential and will only be held on the Victims Register. Access to this information is strictly limited to staff with a genuine and essential need to have such access and will not be available to offenders or other persons. Further details including registration forms are available from the Coordinator, NT Victims Register, Crime Victims Services Unit on 1800 221 372 or victims.register@nt.gov.au.

Where can I get help?

Witness Assistance Service (WAS)

In Darwin:

Old Admiralty Towers
68 The Esplanade
DARWIN 0800

GPO Box 3321 DARWIN NT 0801
Phone: 8935 7500 or
Free Call: 1800 659 449
www.dpp.nt.gov.au

Aboriginal Support Co-ordinator
Phone: 8935 7500 or
Free Call: 1800 659 449

In Alice Springs:

Centrepont Building
Hartley Street,
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870

PO Box 2185,
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Phone: 8951 5800

Crime Victims Services Unit

Level 3
Old Admiralty Towers
68 The Esplanade
DARWIN NT 0800

GPO Box 1722
DARWIN NT 0801
Free Call 1800 460 363 (Financial assistance)
Free Call 1800 221 372 (Victims Register)
www.cvsu.nt.gov.au
cvsu.doj@nt.gov.au
victims.register@nt.gov.au

Victims of Crime NT

Suite1/8 Knuckey Street
DARWIN NT 0800
Phone: 8941 0995

GPO Box 1258
DARWIN NT 0801
Free Call: 1800 672 242
www.victimsofcrime.org.au
vocalnt@bigpond.com.au

Anglicare

All counseling referrals to FreeCall: 1800 898 500

www.anglicare-nt.org.au
resolve@anglicare-nt.org.au

In Darwin:

1/5 Goyder Rd
PARAP

In Alice Springs:

16 Hartley St
ALICE SPRINGS

In Nhulunbuy:

6 Chesterfield Circuit
NHULUNBUY

In Katherine:

15 Third St
KATHERINE

NT Police

Commissioner of Police,
NAB House
71 Smith St
DARWIN NT 0800
www.pfes.nt.gov.au

PO Box 39764
WINNELLIE NT 0821
Phone: 8922 3344

Summary Prosecutions

In Darwin:

Old Admiralty Towers
68 The Esplanade
DARWIN 0800
GPO Box 3321, DARWIN NT 0801
Phone: 8985 8300

In Alice Springs:

Centrepont Building
Hartley Street
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870
Phone: 8951 5795

Director of Public Prosecutions

In Darwin:

Old Admiralty Towers
68 The Esplanade
DARWIN NT 0800
Phone: 8935 7500
www.dpp.nt.gov.au

In Alice Springs:

Centrepont Building
Hartley Street
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870
Phone: 8951 5800

Correctional Services

Executive Director
NT Correctional Services
Old Admiralty Towers
68 The Esplanade
DARWIN NT 0800
www.nt.gov.au/justice/corrservices

GPO Box 3196
DARWIN NT 0801
Phone: 8935 7777

If you need help in translating information contained in this brochure, call 13 14 50.

If you are an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander, and need more information, call the Aboriginal Support Co-ordinator at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

If you have any complaints about the manner in which you have been treated, contact the Witness Assistance Service or Victims of Crime NT.