

# WITNESS ASSISTANCE SERVICE



## SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

As a victim or witness you, or members of your family, may be involved in a criminal prosecution. You will deal with many different people before the case comes to court. You may have questions. You can contact the police officer in charge of your case or the Witness Assistance Service at the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

### Support for victims and witnesses Freecall 1800 659 449

#### DARWIN

Level 3, Old Admiralty Tower  
68 The Esplanade  
Darwin NT 0800

Phone 08 8935 7500  
Fax 08 8935 7552

GPO Box 3321  
Darwin NT 0801

#### ALICE SPRINGS

Level 1, Centre Point Building  
Hartley Street  
Alice Springs NT 0870

Phone 08 8951 5800  
Fax 08 8951 5812

PO Box 2185  
Alice Springs NT 0871

#### KATHERINE

Ground Floor Rear  
Randazzo Building  
Katherine Tce  
Katherine NT 0850

Phone 08 8973 8813  
Fax 08 8973 8866

PO Box 1295  
Katherine NT 0851

#### The witness assistance service can:

- Help you understand how the courts and the legal system work.
  - Show you the court and the facilities for victims and witnesses before the case.
  - Be with you in court while you are waiting to give evidence.
  - Inform the prosecutor of any special needs you have.
  - Tell you about welfare, health, counselling and legal services available to victims of crime.
  - Tell you about financial assistance available under the Northern Territory Victims of Crime Act.
  - Tell you how to claim witness expenses.
  - Help you prepare a Victim Impact Statement.
- The reason why charges did not go ahead.
  - The place, time and date when the case is to go to court.
  - Victim Impact Statements.
  - The result of the case and any sentence imposed.
  - Any property of yours held by the DPP.

#### Your protection

It is important that you tell the police if you have any concerns about your safety.

When an application for bail is being decided by the police or the court, any need for protection for you and your family will be considered.

Unless it is necessary your address or other personal details will not be disclosed to any person without your consent.

If you do not want your address given out in court it is important that you tell the police or the DPP.

#### Interpreters

Interpreters help people who have difficulty with English.

The Witness Assistance Service can arrange an interpreter for you.

**Phone:** 08 8935 7500 Darwin  
08 8951 5800 Alice Springs  
08 8973 8813 Katherine

**Freecall:** 1800 659 449

#### The Charter

In the Northern Territory there is a Charter for Victims of Crime. The Charter covers many areas of concern to victims of crime. You can expect police officers, government employees and court staff to treat you with courtesy, respect and dignity.

#### You can ask about

- The progress of the investigation. The police officer, prosecutor or Witness Assistance Service however cannot tell you anything that would put the investigation at risk.
- Charges laid against the accused person and any later change to the charges.
- Whether bail has been granted and any bail conditions.
- The reason why the plea of guilty to a lesser charge was accepted from the offender.



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NORTHERN TERRITORY**

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## **Other information available**

More information and fact sheets are available on the DPP website.

You may be eligible to apply for crimes compensation or be placed on the Victims Register if you want to be kept informed about what is happening with the offender after he/she is sentenced (for serious violence matters).

Contact the Crime Victims Service Unit for an application form.

**Phone** 1800 221 372

**Email** [cvsu.doj@nt.gov.au](mailto:cvsu.doj@nt.gov.au)

**Website** [www.cvsu.nt.gov.au](http://www.cvsu.nt.gov.au)



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