

## **Questionnaire for victims**

This document explains some of the questions or words them a bit differently. This is to make them easier to understand. If you have any further questions do not hestiate to contact <a href="mailto:sarah.omalley@iccl.ie">sarah.omalley@iccl.ie</a>.

#### Question 4:

This questions wants to know what crime you suffered. If it's easier just write yourself how you would describe the crime

Criminal offence against life = murder, attempted murder, homicide, manslaughter, attempted manslaughter

Criminal offence in violation of bodily integrity = assault, assault causing harm

Criminal offence in violation of sexual freedom = rape, sexual assault

Property crime = theft, robbery

Other criminal offence:

#### **Question 5:**

What date did the crime occur? It's okay if you only remember the year or can only make a guess.

## Question 6:

This question wants to know at what stage it is at

• Statement to the police or state attorney = have you made a report to the gardaí



- A criminal report has been filed = have the gardaí either sent the file of your case to the
  DPP (Director of Public Prosecutions)
- Inquiry/ Investigation = have the gardaí started investigating or looking for evidence?
- Indictment = has the accused person been brought to court and charged with the crime?
- Trial = has there been a criminal trial in court
- The procedure ended with a final verdict = if the trial was completed, what was the final decision?

Conviction = the person was found guilty

Acquittal = the person was found not guilty

Other (suspension, settlement etc...) \_\_\_\_\_\_ (if something

else happened other than a guilty or not guilty verdict)

• The procedure after the (first instance) judgment is in process of: (if after the final verdict in the trial the case is continuing)

The appeal: if the convicted person is appealing their conviction or sentence or if the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is appealing the sentence for being too low

- Constitutional complaint = is the convicted person bringing an appeal on a constitutional issue
- European Court of Human Rights = is the case going to be brought before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg?

## Question 9:

Was/were security/safety measure(s) imposed on the person who committed the crime

Examples of safety measures could be that the person was kept in detention before the trial. Or if they were granted release on bail were measures put in place such as a ban on them going into your neighborhood.



## **Right to information**

#### Question 10:

What this question is asking is whether you agree with the phrase "from the moment I contacted the gardaí I understood what was going on and the gardaí understood me and my complaint and my story"

#### Question 11:

Did you receive instructions from the gardaí with information on your rights as a victim?

#### Question 12:

Was the information easy to read and not too hard or complex?

## Question 13:

If the information was too hard to understand did you tell the gardaí this? If you did, did they make the information easier to understand?

#### Question 14:

If the gardaí or someone else did make the information easier to understand, who did this? Was it the investigating garda? Was it a victim support worker? Was it the victim liaison garda?

#### Question 15:

If you reported a crime, did you receive a written confirmation from the gardaí? Did they hand you a document that noted that you had made a complaint and on what date it was?

## Question 16:



Did the gardaí tell you if they made a decision to

- a) not investigate the crime
- b) stop investigating the crime
- c) not to bring the case forward/not to bring the accused person to trial

#### Question 17:

Were you informed by the gardaí about which court the case would go to? Did they tell you the dates and where the court is? Did the explain what kind of crime and case they had against the accused person?

#### **Question 18:**

Did the gardaí tell you about the final result of the court case? Was there a guilty or not guilty verdict for example? Or if the trial didn't happen for some reason did they explain what happened?

## Question 19:

Did you receive information from the gardaí about what stage your case was at?

## Question 20:

Did you receive information from the gardaí about if the convicted person was released from prison or escaped?

# Question 21:

Did you actively participate in the criminal process, for example did you make a victim impact statement?

#### The right to access victim support services



## Question 23:

Have you accessed victim support services?

If so, who referred you to that right? Was it the gardaí or someone else?

#### Question 24:

what form of support did you get?

- Information and advice about the rights I have
- Information on compensation (information about the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme)
- Information on specialized support for certain categories of victims for example
- Emotional support
- Psychological support
- Advice and information on financial and practical issues arising from criminal offences
- Advice on risk and avoidance of repeated victimization, intimidation, and retaliation =
  information about how you and your family can be kept sage

Participation in criminal proceedings and special protection

## Question 26:

"being heard" during criminal proceedings means, during the trial did you give evidence? Did you speak?

Have you exercised your right to legal aid? Legal aid in Ireland only applies to some victims of certain sexual offences and human trafficking.

1. Please mark the statement(s) that apply to you:



- I have been reimbursed for costs associated with active participation in criminal proceedings = I have been given money back for the money I had to spend going to court, for food and childcare on the day of the trial for example
- Property that was confiscated for the purposes of criminal proceedings was returned to me = did you receive your phone back for example?
- 2. Have you exercised the right to a closed hearing (without the presence of the public) and data confidentiality? Was the trial heard "in camera" or in private?
- 3. Have you exercised the right to questioning via audio-video link to avoid unnecessary contact with the perpetrator? Did you give evidence through a video link from another room not the court room?
- 4. Have you started a process to get compensation or reimbursement of money you spent during the process?

## Question 38:

Do you think victims rights are protected?

- Entirely
- Partially
- They are insufficient