

How we can help you

We can give you:

- Someone to talk to about how you are feeling
- Information about how the police, courts and Children's Reporters work and how you may be involved in a court case
- Practical help to complete forms, explain agency roles and understand processes and terminology
- Advice to help you stay safe at home and when you are out and about
- Support if you are asked to be a witness and give evidence in court
- Information about your rights and how to access these

Emotional support

Crime can have a damaging effect on mental and emotional well-being. Victim Support Scotland provides a safe place for people affected by crime to voice fears, worries and emotions. We give people the support they need to cope with emotional stress.

"VSS offered some hope to help deal with the horrible, confusing and frightening situation... They listened, understood and helped me cope with the situation."



Our staff and volunteers are trained to listen, give information and offer feedback. We can help make sense of what people have been through, discuss options and help people to feel they are getting their life under control again. Talking with us gives people the chance to get things off their chest and let go of distressing experiences. Not everyone can talk to friends and family, especially if they are affected by the crime too.

Practical help

Being a victim of crime can lead to all kinds of practical problems, ranging from damage to property and claiming insurance to life-changing medical problems. Practical problems often act as reminders of the crime and make it harder to move on.

Victim Support Scotland can help with simple tasks like filling out forms, getting broken property fixed and assistance to get home security checks. We also provide help to understand the criminal justice or youth justice systems. We give people the necessary information to understand their options and signpost people to agencies that provide specialist support.


Accessing Support

Whatever the crime, Victim Support Scotland can help. Call our helpline, 8am – 8pm, Monday to Friday.

0800 160 1985

You can also find out more at our website:

www.victimsupport.scot


Victim Support Scotland

**SUPPORT FOR
VICTIMS OF
YOUTH CRIME**



No one expects to be a victim of crime, but it can happen to anyone and impacts people differently. **Victim Support Scotland** is here to help people navigate the justice process and cope with the various effects of a crime.

Youth crime is handled differently to adult crime. This leaflet lays out the justice process for youth crime as well as setting out the help available.

The Justice Process for Youth Crime

In Scotland, generally young people involved in offending behaviour under the age of 16 (in some cases up to 18) are dealt with by Children's Reporters who are employed by the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA).

SCRA aims to protect the safety and welfare of children and young people, who may need help for a number of reasons. SCRA looks at the young person's specific circumstances and needs, as well as the offence committed. Decisions are not based on punishing the young person, but on looking at measures which are in the young person's best interests and, where relevant, address their behaviour.



There are situations in which a young person will be referred by a Children's Reporter to a Children's Hearing, which will consider their circumstances and decide whether a legally compulsory supervision order is necessary or not. More information on this process is available on the SCRA website and from one of SCRA's Victim Information Co-ordinators.

Victims of youth crime are legally not entitled to attend Children's Hearings in order to preserve the confidentiality of young people. However, victims may be asked to give evidence in court if the young person or their carers do not agree at the Children's Hearing that the young person is responsible for the crime. This process is complex and may be overwhelming and distressing for victims. Victim Support Scotland understands and is here to provide support and to listen to your concerns.

More information about SCRA

Visit SCRA's website, www.scra.gov.uk, for further information for victims of youth crime. The SCRA Victim Information Co-ordinators (see letter accompanying this leaflet) can provide further details.



Victim Support Scotland

Crime at any level can affect individuals in many ways – emotionally, financially, practically and physically. Victim Support Scotland is an independent charity which provides free practical help, emotional support and information to anyone affected by crime throughout Scotland.

We support anyone affected by any type of crime. This includes victims, witnesses and their friends or family. Our service is confidential, so we will not discuss personal details with anyone else without permission.

We help people to feel safer and find the strength to move beyond crime, by providing support tailored to individual needs. We can meet with people at home, in our office, or provide support by phone or email.

“Victim Support Scotland is not just for serious crime. It can help anyone who is going through a difficult experience.”

