

# RIGHTS ON SHOW

## Explaining your rights with police as a witness or victim of crime



The story, all names, characters and incidents shown are fiction.



This is general information.

It does not replace legal advice.

Free legal advice 1300 366 424.

February 2018.

# WITNESS OR VICTIM OF CRIME? TELL POLICE WHAT HAPPENED



With most crimes there is usually a victim and an offender.



If you have been hurt by another person you are the victim of a crime.

You can tell police what happened.



If you saw or heard the crime as it happened you are a witness of a crime.

You can tell police what happened.



There are many ways to tell police what happened.



If you need police to show up in an emergency telephone Triple Zero (000).

An emergency is when you are in danger and you need help quickly.



If it's not an emergency you can telephone the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

telephone this number if you are safe but you need to talk to police.



If you want to tell police what happened without giving your name you can telephone Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



Or you can tell police what happened online at [crimestoppers.com.au](http://crimestoppers.com.au)



If you want to tell police what happened face to face you can go into a police station.

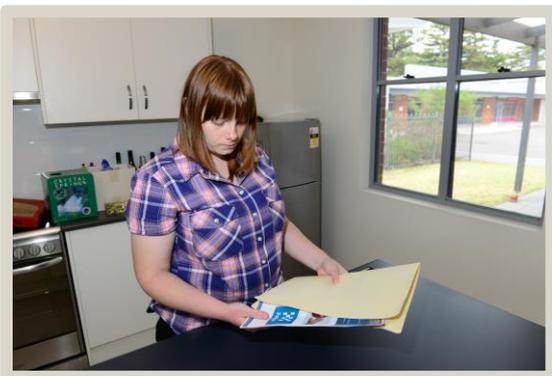


If you go into a police station you can have a support person with you.

This might be someone from your family or a friend or a community worker.



When you tell police what happened police will write this down and give you a reference number.



It's important to keep this reference number safe in case you need it later.

This might be for insurance or for asking police what has happened with your case.



Police will also explain your rights as a victim or witness of crime.



Some people might need help to tell police what happened.



Tell police if you need help to say what happened.

This might be because you are young or have a disability.

It might also be because you have different communication needs.



You can get legal advice about being a victim or witness of crime.

You can telephone the Legal Help Line on  
1300 366 424.

The Legal Help Line is open from  
9am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.



Legal Help Line  
1300 366 424

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# WITNESS OR VICTIM OF CRIME? POLICE INVESTIGATION



Police investigate crime.



This means police try to find out what happened and who did it.



They try to find out everything about what happened.

They look very carefully.



Police try to find evidence.

Evidence is very important.

Evidence can be things or it can be what someone tells police.



If a person goes to court the magistrate, judge or jury will use evidence to help them decide what happened.



When police are investigating they talk to people.



Police might talk to the person who was the victim of the crime.

A victim is someone who is hurt by another person.



Police might talk to witnesses of the crime.

These are people who saw or heard the crime as it happened.



Police might ask a victim or a witness what happened.

Police will write this down.

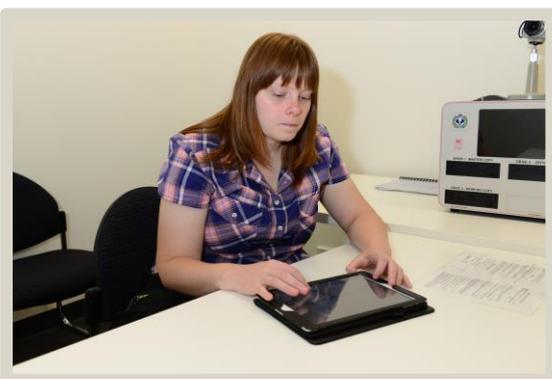


Police will ask a victim or a witness to sign their name on that paper.

That paper is called a witness statement.



If someone is young or has a disability a specially trained investigator can help them say what happened.



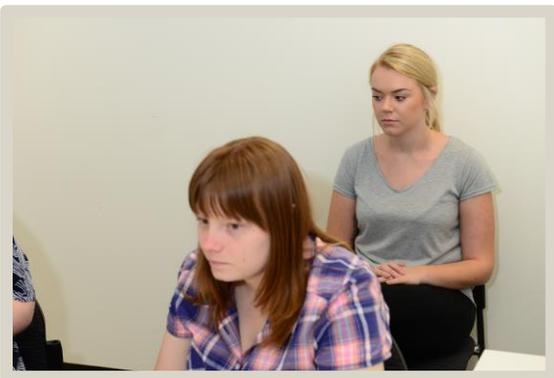
It is okay to use a communication device to say what happened.



Sometimes, a communication partner can help a person say what happened.



Communication partners are trained workers to help people say what happened.



If a person is upset saying what happened their family or friend can help.



Police will record the questions they ask you and what you say back.

They will use a video camera.



Police can show other people the video if they need to know what a person said.



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