

Any one of us might fall victim to a criminal offence. You can receive support once you have notified of the offence. As a victim, you have the right to dignified and respectful treatment. In order to alleviate your experience as a victim, you will be provided various assistance.

The right to receive and provide information

- * You can read the protocol for example, an **interrogation protocol**, and make notes concerning the procedural act. Notify the investigator of your wish to do so.
- * You have the right to see the **criminal file** after the end of pre-trial proceedings. Ask the prosecutor for this.
- * **You can participate** in discussing the matter during a **court session**.
- * If you do not speak Estonian on a sufficient level, you can receive **help from an interpreter** and a translation of important information, e.g. judgement or ruling on the termination of criminal proceedings.
- * **You are not required to give testimony** against people close to you or against yourself. You are not required to give testimony if you have to adhere to a confidentiality requirement due to your professional activity.
- * If the **arrest or release of a suspect could endanger you**, then you have the right to be notified when the suspect is arrested or released. Notify the prosecutor or inspector of your wishes in this regard.
- * If you are a victim of sexual or gender violence, or of a criminal offence committed in a close relationship, you can request that the **person conducting the interrogation would be of the same gender as you**.
- * In order to defend your position, you have the right to provide **evidence** that characterises what has occurred. You can also submit complaints and applications to the investigator and prosecutor.

The right to receive support

- * You can bring along a **supporting person** to the procedural act.
- * **Victim support service** provides psychological assistance, compensation of damages caused by the criminal offence and other counselling. Read more from the [website of the Social Insurance Board](#) and the [Abiks Ohvrile \(help for a victim\) website](#). Telephone: 16106 and e-mail: info@sotsiaalkindlustusamet.ee
- * **You can apply for a protection order** to ensure that the person dangerous to you would not be in your close vicinity, near your home or workplace, and would not communicate with you over the phone or on the internet. The prosecutor will help you with this, you can also ask for information from the investigator. Read more on the [Abiks Ohvrile \(help for a victim\) website](#).
- * **You have the right for a representative. Information concerning legal aid and legal advice** can be acquired by calling 688 0400, sending an email to abi@juristaitab.ee or visiting the [Jurist Aitab \(help from a lawyer\) website](#).

The right to receive compensation for damages

- * You have the right to receive compensation for damages caused in relation to the criminal offence. You have the right to file, via police or the Prosecutor's Office, a **civil action for the compensation of damages**, without paying state fees. This can be done at the earliest opportunity, but no later than ten days after seeing that criminal file at the Prosecutor's Office. If possible, bring documents that verify the damage (cheques, receipts) already to the

interrogation. More detailed information shall be provided by the investigator, who will also help you fill in the relevant form, which you can later specify or change.

The right to receive fair treatment

- * **You have the right to contest the failure to start criminal proceedings or the termination of criminal proceedings.** In order to do so, send an e-mail or letter to the Prosecutor's Office in which you explain, in free format, why the criminal proceedings should be initiated or continued, within ten days of having received the ruling or notice. Contact information is available on our website www.prokuratuur.ee. If proceedings were not commenced or the proceedings have been terminated, but you still need help, you can turn to victim support.
- * You can provide your consent to apply **settlement proceedings**. In that case, the accused shall plead guilty and agree upon their punishment with the prosecutor, and you shall have the right to give your opinion concerning the punishment. If the judge agrees to the settlement, the accused shall be convicted. You can get more information from the prosecutor.

Contact person of the police or the Prosecutor's Office and their contact information

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