VICTIMS CHARTER

and guide to the criminal justice system

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM

V I C T I M S C H A R T E R

and guide to the criminal justice system

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Foreword

I am particularly pleased to introduce this new comprehensive Charter for Victims of Crime which reflects my full commitment to giving victims of crime a central place in the criminal justice system.

For far too long the plight of crime victims has been ignored. In many respects they have been treated as spectators and denied their proper role in the criminal justice system. It is only in recent years that proper recognition has been given to victims and to particularly vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly and victims of sexual offences. This new recognition has been reflected in our laws and in the Government funding which is allocated specifically to the welfare of crime victims.

This Charter is, as promised, comprehensive in nature and draws together, for the first time, all the elements of the criminal justice system from the crime victim's perspective. Apart from the mainstream elements of the system such as the Gardaí, the Prison Service, the Probation and Welfare Service, the Courts, and the State Prosecution Service, I am glad to welcome the contribution of Victim Support and its public undertaking to deliver specific services to crime victims. Though not directly part of the criminal justice system, I am also very pleased to include a profile of the Coroner Service, an increasingly important public service which often deals with victim issues associated with sudden, unexplained, violent or unnatural deaths.

Above all, this Charter is directly addressed to you, the victims of crime. It sets out clearly the levels and standards of treatment which you can reasonably expect. Where those expectations are not met, or where the level of service is not of the required standard, there are clear complaints procedures. As indicated throughout the Charter, you are entitled to dignity and compassion from all the services involved in supporting crime victims. I am committed to developing and improving such services until such time as crime victims do, in fact, occupy a truly central place in our criminal justice system.

John O'Donoghue T.D.
Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform

Introduction

This Charter describes the criminal justice system from the perspective of a crime victim and sets out your rights and entitlements to the services provided by the various State agencies involved with crime victims.

The Charter is arranged in seven sections and includes statements from:

- The Gardaí
- The Courts
- The Prison Service
- The Probation and Welfare Service
- The State Prosecution Service
- Victim Support
- The Coroner Service

Each statement includes:

a description of the role of the service

a statement of what you can expect from the service

what you can do if these expectations are not met

A summary of recent legal provisions relating to crime victims is included in section 8 and a note on compensation for victims is in section 9.

Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, 1999

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS CHARTER IS INTENDED AS A GUIDE ONLY - IT DOES NOT PURPORT EITHER TO INTERPRET THE LEGISLATION IT REFERS TO, OR TO CONFER LEGAL RIGHTS

1 Garda Charter

The role of the Gardaí

There are currently around 11,300 Gardaí dedicated to

- the prevention of crime
- the protection of life and property
- the preservation of peace
- the maintenance of public safety.

When crimes and offences occur, the Gardaí are committed to investigating them and bringing those responsible to justice. This is achieved in a number of ways by:

- cautioning young offenders – *for a range of minor offences*
- prosecuting before the District Court – *for less serious offences*
- reporting the results of investigations to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and asking for direction – *for more serious crimes*

The Gardaí are very conscious of your special place in the criminal justice system and would like to establish a supportive relationship with you. Special regard for your real concerns and needs is a high priority and you will be treated with empathy, courtesy and respect.

All Garda members are trained to treat victims of crime with dignity. The Gardaí are continuously developing and refining their awareness and understanding of your expectations, needs and entitlements. This commitment is reflected in the education and training courses which all Gardaí

receive. Training and development of Garda personnel in the support and care of victims is an important part of Garda policy.

The Gardaí work in co-operation with agencies, community groups and others committed to the welfare of victims and crime prevention generally.

What you can expect from the Gardaí

The Gardaí are committed to addressing your needs and concerns in an empathetic, understanding and problem-solving manner.

If you are a victim of crime, the Gardaí will:

- *respond promptly to your call*
  and give you equal priority in the investigation of your case, regardless of your gender, race, creed, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age, economic circumstances or membership of any minority group;

- *tell you the name, telephone number and station of the investigating Garda;*

- *outline the investigation process to you*
  and ensure that you are kept informed of the progress of the investigation, including whether a suspect is charged or cautioned;

- *tell you about the services available from Victim Support*
  and provide a designated Garda Liaison Officer to ensure effective co-operation between Victim Support and the Gardaí on your behalf;

- *tell you, where a suspect is charged:*
  - whether the accused is in custody or on bail and the conditions attached to the bail
  - the time, date and location of the court hearing of the charges against the accused
  - the prosecution process involved and, if you are likely to be called as a witness, the help available from Victim Support
  - the circumstances where a Judge may ask for a victim impact statement (sexual and violent offences) and arrange for its completion
  - your entitlement to court expenses
  - the final outcome of the trial;

- *show special sensitivity in relation to sexual offences:*
  - the services of a Garda and doctor of the same gender will, as far as possible, be made available to you
  - you will be told about the availability of local specialist agencies dealing with sexual offences
  - the services of a specialised Garda Unit, (Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Investigation Unit) will, where appropriate, be made available to you
  - a special fully-equipped suite for victims of rape and sexual assault (and for other serious crimes) is also available to you in Store Street Garda Station, Dublin;

- *tell you about offender releases:*
  where a crime is involved which caused serious trauma to you or your family, the Gardaí will, when notified of the imminent release from custody of the offender, pass this information on to you. In addition, they will make whatever policing arrangements they consider appropriate for your safety;

- *for families of murder victims,*
  Garda Superintendents will liaise directly with you and the relevant Victim Support Service in the first instance. Continuing liaison will be maintained between the family, the Gardaí and Victim Support through a named member of the investigation team;

- *as a victim of domestic violence,*
  you will have the same Garda support services as victims of sexual violence and serious crime. A pro-arrest policy reflects Garda operational practice in protecting you and your family;

- *if you are a visitor to Ireland*
  and are a victim of crime, the Gardaí will also refer you to the services of Tourist Victim Support;

- *as an elderly person*
  the Gardaí will continue to take all possible steps to protect you and your home, including special measures to deal with certain cases;

- *if you have any form of physical or mental disability*
  the Gardaí will endeavour to provide for, and attend to, any special needs or particular requirements you may have;

- *if you are unable to communicate fluently in Irish or English*
  the Gardaí will provide free translation services so that you will receive the quality of service to which all victims of crime are entitled.

If these expectations are not met

If you are not fully satisfied or if you have any enquiries, suggestions or feedback on any aspect of the treatment of victims of crime by members of the Garda Síochána, correspondence and calls should be directed to:

Garda Victim Liaison Officer
An Garda Síochána
Community Relations Section
Harcourt Square
Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 475 5555

or to your local Superintendent.

A reply will issue in all cases within 21 days.

2 Courts Charter

The management of the courts is currently being transferred to a new agency, entitled the Courts Service, which is required by law to have regard to the needs of court users. The agency is very much aware of the special needs of crime victims and will be consolidating and developing existing measures in this area.

The role of the Courts

- A variety of courts exists with a range of different competencies, functions and ways of proceeding. The table on pages 12-13 shows a summary of their main features.

- The Irish system is an “adversarial” one. This means that the judge acts as an impartial “referee” between two parties, called the prosecution and the defence. Witnesses may be called by both parties.

- As described in the table, a jury is sometimes used to bring in a verdict and the judge’s role will include:
  - deciding legal issues;
  - instructing the jury on what may be taken into account in reaching a verdict;
  - generally making sure that the case is presented properly.

- Sentencing is the sole responsibility of judges. Although maximum penalties are usually laid down, they are, however, free to take a wide variety of particular circumstances into account.

- If an offender pleads guilty to an offence, a court may impose a lesser sentence than might otherwise have been the case having regard to, among other things, the fact that a victim may have been spared the ordeal of having to give evidence.

- Prisoners awaiting trial may be released on bail by the court. Our bail laws are being tightened and, in particular, this will allow courts to take into account the possibility of the commission of serious offences by the accused if bail were to be granted.

- Legal restrictions are in place on the reporting of certain cases such as rape and sexual assault trials.

What you can expect from the Courts Service

For many victims, court appearances can be a daunting and often distressing experience. Accordingly, you must be protected from intimidation and encouraged and supported in every way possible. In recognition of this, a number of support mechanisms have been introduced. These include a commitment:

- to take into account the impact on you when determining the sentence for an offender who has committed a serious or violent offence;
- to allow you to give evidence about the effect of the crime on you;
- to provide, in conjunction with Victim Support, the services of The Court Victim/Witness Service which gives you the support, encouragement and companionship of trained volunteers when you are attending court;
- to provide accommodation and facilities for your use and that of your family in all new and refurbished court buildings;
- to expand the use of Video Link for young (under 17) child victims giving evidence in serious sexual or violent crime cases and for vulnerable or intimidated witnesses.

If these expectations are not met

Judicial decisions are the sole prerogative of the judiciary. Appeals, where appropriate, are provided for by law. Our constitution protects the independence of the judiciary. However, in relation to the overall service provided by the court offices, you are entitled to efficiency, courtesy, and fairness. If you are unable to secure acceptable levels of service from any particular court office, you may refer the matter to:

The local Chief Court Clerk
or the County Registrar

or to

Courts Administration Division
Phoenix House
Conyngham Road
Dublin 8

Tel: (01) 888 6000

Court	Criminal cases heard
District Court	• Minor offences - no jury
Circuit Court	• More serious offences except offences such as murder, rape, serious sexual assault, etc. • Appeals from District Court
High Court	• Known as Central Criminal Court when trying criminal cases outside jurisdiction of Circuit Court
Special Criminal Court (established by law in 1972)	• Hears special specified offences primarily related to terrorism and serious 'organised' crime
Court of Criminal Appeal	• Appeals from the Circuit, Central Criminal and Special Criminal Court • Decision is final unless it involves a point of law of exceptional public interest
Supreme Court	• Appeals from decisions of the High Court in proceedings that were commenced in the High Court • Cases referred by the High Court and the Circuit Court to the Supreme Court, i.e. "cases stated" • Appeals from the Court of Criminal Appeal on a point of law of exceptional public importance

Heard by	Location
Single judge	240 regions
Single judge with jury	8 circuits
High Court judge with jury	Four Courts
Three judges - no jury	Four Courts
One Supreme Court judge and two High Court judges	Four Courts
Three, or in some cases five, Supreme Court judges	Four Courts

3 Prisons Charter

The prisons are managed by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. It is, however, intended to transfer this function to an independent Prisons Authority and the necessary arrangements are currently being made.

The role of the Prison Service

- The Prisons: Prison institutions range from high-security establishments to "open" style arrangements with minimum security. Each prisoner is accommodated in an institution considered appropriate to his or her profile. This profile will include factors such as, type of offence, length of sentence, degree of risk etc. Those considered dangerous or posing a threat to their victim(s) are always detained in one of the secure "closed" prisons.

- Rehabilitation: In order to prevent re-offending following release, one of the primary objectives of the prison system is the rehabilitation of offenders. This is pursued through work/training, counselling and/or treatment for drug, alcohol or other dependencies which are linked to offending. A special sex offenders' treatment programme which obliges perpetrators to focus on the full effects of their crime on victims, is available to some prisoners.

- Sentence remission: Subject to good behaviour while in prison, most offenders qualify for a 25% reduction in their sentences. This is a legal entitlement and is taken into account by judges when passing sentence. Prisoners serving life sentences, however, have no release date and may only be freed with the approval of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, or in certain cases, the Government.

- Release from prison: Offenders are usually released from prison either when they have completed their sentence or when they are approved for early or temporary release by the Minister or in some cases by the Government. In certain cases, however, the courts may order the release of prisoners on bail, arising from a review, an appeal or some other legal basis. In such cases the decision rests solely with the court.

- Temporary release: Offenders are granted temporary release for various reasons. These include compassionate grounds such as the death or serious illness of a close relative. Prisoners nearing the end of long sentences are, in some cases, granted temporary release in order to aid reintegration into the community. Many factors are taken into account in considering prisoners for temporary release, including, in every case, the potential risk or danger to the public and the victim.

- Sentence Review Group: When long-term prisoners have served seven years they may apply to have their case reviewed by the non-statutory Sentence Review Group. As with temporary and early releases, a wide range of factors are taken into account when the Group decide to make a recommendation. The Group may only make recommendations. The final decision lies with the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

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What you can expect from the Prison Service

The Prison Service is extremely conscious of your plight as a victim and the potentially devastating consequences of some offences. The Service acknowledges that for every offender there is a victim and that the prevention of re-victimisation is a priority. In particular, the Prison Service will:

- pursue, in the interest of potential crime victims, the rehabilitation of all offenders sentenced to prison by the courts;
- provide the requisite number of prison spaces so as to ensure that all offenders sentenced to imprisonment can serve their sentences in accordance with the law;
- continue to ensure that in all cases where temporary release is being considered, any potential risk to the victim is taken fully into account;
- take into account, when considering offenders for temporary release (when available and with the permission of the victim), the contents of the victim impact statement;
- ensure that no additional distress is caused to victims by any action of an offender while imprisoned;
- if requested by the victim of a serious sexual or violent offence*, notify the Gardaí prior to the release of the perpetrator from prison either on temporary release or at the end of their sentence. In cases where the release is ordered by the Court, prior notification will not usually be possible.

* Requests for notification of releases should be addressed to the Prisons Victim Liaison Officer at the address opposite.

If these expectations are not met

Any complaints regarding the operation or any other aspect of the Prison Service should be addressed to:

Prisons Victim Liaison Officer
Prisons Division
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
72/76 St Stephen's Green
Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 602 8289

or to The Governor of the prison concerned.

4 Probation and Welfare Service Charter

The role of the Probation and Welfare Service

The Service operates as part of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and involves:

- the provision of a service to all courts;
- the preparation of reports on individual offenders;
- the implementation of offender programmes arising from court penalties which do not involve custody.

The Service concerns itself with your plight as a victim and attempts to consider your sensitivities and trauma in the way that it undertakes its work. Offenders are strongly encouraged to take responsibility for the hurt, damage and suffering they may have inflicted on you.

The Service is committed to furthering proper recognition and respect for you in all areas of its work. It seeks to prevent re-offending and, in so doing, aims to prevent the creation of further victims, contributing to a safer community.

What you can expect from the Probation and Welfare Service

The Service will:

- when working with offenders, seek to challenge the offending behaviour and its consequences for you;
- ensure that offenders continue to address any issue of lifestyle or attitude that have contributed to their offences against you;
- have due regard to your concerns when preparing reports on offenders for the courts;
- when requested by the courts, assist in the preparation of victim impact statements;
- ensure that any proposed community-based programmes are sensitive to your concerns and are designed to prevent re-offending;
- direct restitution to you when compensation is made a condition of the supervision of offenders.

If these expectations are not met

Complaints or enquiries regarding the operation of the Probation and Welfare Service may be addressed to:

Principal Probation and Welfare Officer
Probation and Welfare Service
Smithfield Chambers
Dublin 7

Tel: (01) 817 3600

5

State Prosecution Service Charter

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Chief State Solicitor's Office

The role of the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP)

- The Office of Director of Public Prosecutions is totally independent in the exercise of it's functions. Neither the Government nor any particular Minister can order the Director or his/her office to prosecute or not prosecute any particular case.
- Although nearly all prosecutions are formally taken in the name of the DPP, the decision on whether to prosecute is, in the vast majority of cases, actually made by the Gardaí.
- Prosecution decisions in the most serious cases (eg. murder, sexual offences) are made only by the DPP.
- Where the DPP decides not to prosecute in a particular case, the reasons are given to the investigating Gardaí. The DPP is, however, precluded from disclosing such information to any other party. The legal position in this regard has been confirmed by the Superior Courts in a number of cases in recent years.

What you can expect from the Director of Public Prosecutions

The Director of Public Prosecutions will:

- have regard to any views expressed by you when making decisions in specific cases whether or not to prosecute;
- examine a request for a review of the decision and in appropriate cases carry out an independent internal review;
- appeal a sentence to a higher court, where s/he considers the sentence to be excessively lenient.

If these expectations are not met

Any query or complaint in respect of any aspect of the operation of the Office may be addressed to:

The Director of Public Prosecutions
14-16 Upper Merrion St.
Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 678 9222

5 State Prosecution Service Charter

(Continued)

The role of the Chief State Solicitor's Office

- The Chief State Solicitor's Office represents the Director of Public Prosecutions in court when offences are being prosecuted. Outside Dublin, the Director is represented by the State Solicitor for the relevant county.
- The Office carries out the same work for the Director of Public Prosecutions as a private solicitor does for an ordinary citizen including:

  - the preparation of court documents, such as books of evidence;

  - instructing and attending on prosecution counsel.

- The Chief State Solicitor's Office is the part of the prosecution service with which victims will have most contact.

What you can expect from the Chief State Solicitor's Office

The Office will:

- work with the Gardaí to ensure that you are kept fully informed of developments in the prosecution of perpetrators of offences, especially those of a violent or sexual nature;
- at your request, facilitate a pre-trial meeting with a representative from the State Solicitor's Office and counsel to discuss the case. (It should be pointed out, however, that the State Solicitor will not discuss evidence with witnesses in advance of the case);
- commit itself to ensuring that you will be treated with the utmost consideration and respect and to explaining, wherever possible, the court processes involved.

If these expectations are not met

All queries and complaints regarding the Office can be addressed to:

The Chief State Solicitor
Osmond House
Little Ship Street
Dublin 8

Tel: (01) 417 6100

6 Victim Support Charter

The role of Victim Support

Victim Support is a community-based organisation with almost 500 trained volunteers and a small number of professional staff dedicated to providing emotional and practical support to victims of crime. It also provides information about victims rights, represents victims interests in the formation of social and criminal policy and raises public awareness about victim issues.

The organisation operates a national network of branches. It receives referrals through its branch network, the Gardaí, other voluntary organisations and from individual victims. Each referral is assessed in order to determine the most appropriate response. Where possible a personal visit is provided.

Other specialist services provided include:

- The Court Victim/Witness Service - provides support before, during and after the court process;
- 24 hour Helpline - assists victims by way of a freephone number so that the services are more accessible;
- Families of Murder Victim Service - provides specialist support for families who have been victimised as a result of a murder or manslaughter;
- Tourist Victim Support - provides assistance for visitors to Ireland who fall victim to crime.

Victim Support receives an annual grant towards its overheads and expenses from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. This has helped to improve the level of services now being delivered by Victim Support with the co-operation of the Gardaí and other agencies in the criminal justice area.

What you can expect from Victim Support

Victim Support will:

- guarantee complete confidentiality in the delivery of all of its services and in all dealings and contacts with victims;
- provide its services free of charge;
- ensure that there is close cooperation with the Gardaí in each area;
- ensure that all volunteers are trained to the highest standards;
- constantly monitor its services to ensure that the highest possible standards are achieved and maintained.

If these expectations are not met

Complaints about any aspect of the service provided by Victim Support should be addressed to:

The Chief Executive
Victim Support
Haliday House
32 Arran Quay
Dublin 7

Tel: (01) 878 0870

A reply will issue in all cases within 21 days

7 Coroner Service Charter

The role of the coroner

A Coroner is either a qualified doctor or lawyer and is an independent officeholder who enquires into the circumstances of sudden, unexplained, violent or unnatural deaths. Such enquiries may require a post mortem examination to be held, sometimes followed by an inquest. If a death is due to unnatural causes, then by law, an inquest must be held.

An inquest is an inquiry held in public by a coroner, sometimes with a jury, into the circumstances surrounding a death. The purpose of the inquest is; to establish the facts surrounding the death and to place those facts on the public record; to make findings on, (a) the identification of the deceased, (b) the date and place of death and (c) the cause of death. While a general recommendation designed to prevent similar deaths occurring may be made by the Coroner or jury, it is not a function of the Coroner's Court to establish civil or criminal liability or to apportion blame.

Coroners appreciate that the various procedures involved in the service, no matter how necessary they may be in the general public interest, can often involve upset and trauma for relatives and families. Every care is taken to ensure that each stage of their work is carried out with the greatest of sensitivity and respect for both the deceased and the grieving families.

What you can expect from the Coroner service

The core service of the Coroner system is twofold. It provides:

- forensic and medico-legal investigation of deaths;
- an important public service to the living and in particular to the family and friends of the deceased.

The general principles underlying the various aspects of the coroner service will include:

- *Identification*
  In arranging for the identification of a deceased person, no unnecessary distress will be caused to family members. In appropriate cases, arrangements will be made for an alternative person to carry out this function.

- *Post mortem*
  The law requires that a post mortem be carried out following a death in certain circumstances. Recognising the concerns which they may have about a procedure unfamiliar to them, information is made available to the family of the deceased. The findings of the examination are made known to the family on request.

- *Release for burial*
  The Coroner will make every effort to ensure that the body of the deceased is released without any undue delay and the family will be informed as to the likely date and time of the release of the body.

- *Inquests*
  The family will be informed (most commonly through the Gardaí at present) of the date, time and place of the inquest as soon as possible.

Inquests will be conducted in a sympathetic and understanding way bearing in mind the feelings and sensitivities of relatives. At the inquest itself, the function and scope of the procedure will be outlined so that the families and next of kin are fully aware of what is involved. The mandatory procedures will be carried out as sensitively as possible and families may, for example, wish to withdraw when evidence is being given by pathologists.

Following the inquest, the Coroner will, on request, make available copies of documents in accordance with law.

In particular deaths, such as young people or infants, the involvement of the appropriate family support organisations will be encouraged, including social workers at the various hospitals and Health Boards, but this is not a direct function of the Coroner.

If these expectations are not met

Coroners are organised on a district basis normally corresponding to a local authority boundary. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of Coroners can be obtained from the relevant local authority or by directly contacting the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform at (01) 602 8202.

8 Victims and the Law - a summary of recent legal provisions

The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform recognises that the views, experiences and requirements of victims must be taken into account when framing or reviewing the Criminal Law. There have, in recent years, been several positive developments in the law insofar as victims are concerned. These are intended to provide support and protection to the victims of crime.

A summary of relevant recent measures is as follows:

The Criminal Evidence Act, 1992

- Makes it easier for witnesses to give evidence in physical or sexual abuse cases by providing for the giving of evidence by live television link;
- Compels, in certain circumstances, the spouse or former spouse of an accused to give evidence for the prosecution in cases involving violence against the spouse or violence or a sexual offence against a child;
- Abolishes certain requirements in relation to evidence given by children including:
  - the requirement to give evidence on oath;
  - the need for corroboration of a child's unsworn evidence;
  - the wearing of wigs and gowns by those conducting the examination, when evidence is being given by means of television link.

The Criminal Justice Act, 1993

- A court, when determining sentence in cases involving a violent or sexual offence, must take into account any effect (whether long-term or otherwise) of the offence on the victim. Where the victim applies to the court to give evidence as to the effect of the crime on him or her, the court is obliged to accede to the victim's request and hear that evidence (which may be given through a legal representative);
- Allows the DPP to apply for a review of unduly lenient sentences;
- Gives sentencing courts a general power to require offenders to pay compensation to the victim for any resulting personal injury or loss.

The Domestic Violence Act, 1996

- Extends the categories of person entitled to apply for Barring Orders and Protection Orders;
- Empowers the courts to grant new type safety orders;
- Gives the Gardaí wider powers of arrest in domestic violence cases.

The Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act, 1997

This comprehensive Act has updated and modernised the existing law relating to various forms of assault, threats to kill or cause serious harm, poisoning, false imprisonment and abduction of children as well as introducing a number of new offences. The Act has measures dealing with:

- Assaults;
- Offences relating to violence or threats of violence involving syringes and/or blood;

- The offence of harassment which is aimed at what is commonly known as ‘stalking’;
- Debt collection with threats or menaces;
- Coercion;
- Endangerment;
- Poisoning or administration of substances intended to interfere with bodily functions;
- The use of reasonable force in protecting oneself, ones family and property from criminal activity.

The Bail Act, 1997

The Act makes provision for the tightening up of the bail regime, including:

- A court may refuse bail to a person charged with a serious offence where it is reasonably considered necessary to prevent the commission of a serious offence by that person;
- New provisions relating to amounts of cash or equivalent securities which must be lodged as part of bail; attaching conditions, including conditions relating to good behaviour, to bail and allowing forfeiture of bail where the conditions are breached;
- Tightening up of the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act, 1984 requiring consecutive sentences to be imposed where an offence is committed on bail;
- At present, a limited number of the provisions of the Act are in force. It will be brought fully into force as soon as the necessary prison places become available.

The Criminal Justice Act, 1999

This Act deals with, among other things, the protection of witnesses, including victims, who may be required to give evidence in court. Specifically:

- It allows witnesses who are in fear or subject to intimidation to give evidence, with the leave of the court, by means of live television link.

- It creates a number of new offences including intimidation of a witness, a jury member or any person assisting the Gardaí with a criminal investigation - *penalty*, up to ten years imprisonment.

9 Compensation for Victims

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal (C.I.C.T.)

If you are injured as a result of a crime you may come within the terms of the Scheme of Compensation for Personal Injuries Criminally Inflicted. This non-statutory scheme, which is funded by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, allows for compensation in respect of expenses and losses incurred as a direct result of a crime of violence, or while assisting or attempting to assist in the prevention of a crime or the saving of a human life.

Applications under the scheme may be made on your behalf by a voluntary agency such as Victim Support or direct to the C.I.C.T. Further details of the scheme are available from:

C.I.C.T.
13 Lower Hatch St.
Dublin 2

Tel: (01) 661 0604

Court Orders

In some cases, the court may make an order for the payment of compensation, or possibly some other form of restitution, to the victim by the offender. In such cases, the payment of compensation may be one of a number of conditions which the offender may be required to comply with, either with or without supervision, in order to avoid sanctions such as imprisonment. The Probation and Welfare Service supervises the implementation of such orders when requested to do so by the court.

Useful addresses and telephone numbers

An Garda Síochána	Garda Victim Liaison Officer, Community Relations Section, Harcourt Square, Dublin 2. (01) 475 5555 Garda Confidential Telephone Freefone 1800 666 111 Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Unit, Garda Headquarters, Harcourt Square, Dublin 2 (01) 666 3436
Courts Administration	Phoenix House, Conyngham Road, Dublin 8 (01) 888 6000
Prison Service	Prisons Victim Liaison Officer, Prisons Division, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, 72/76 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 (01) 602 8289

Probation and Welfare Service	Head Office, Smithfield Chambers, Dublin 7 (01) 817 3600
Director of Public Prosecutions	14/16 Merrion St., Dublin 2 (01) 678 9222
Chief State Solicitor	Osmond House, Little Ship St., Dublin 2 (01) 417 6100
Victim Support	Head Office, Haliday House, 32 Arran Quay, Dublin 7 Court Victim/Witness Service, Families of Murder Victims Service (01) 878 0870 Tourist Victim Support Service (01) 478 5295 Helpline Freefone 1800 661 771

Coroner Service	Enquires to - Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, 72/76 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 (01) 602 8627 Coroners Association of Ireland, c/o Sean McHale & Associates, 63 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2 (01) 661 8088
Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal	13 Lower Hatch St., Dublin 2 (01) 661 0604
The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre	70 Lower Leeson St. Dublin 2 (01) 661 4911 Helpline Freefone 1800 778 888
Network of Rape Crisis Centres Ireland	7 Francis St., Galway (091) 563 676

Women's Aid	PO Box 791, Dublin 1 (01) 874 5303 Helpline: Freefone 1800 341 900
National Network of Womens Refuges and Support Services	Catherine McAuley Centre, Kells, Co. Meath (046) 49049
AMEN (for male victims of domestic abuse)	1 Brews Hill, Navan, Co. Meath (046) 23718
Irish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC)	20 Molesworth St., Dublin 2 (01) 679 4944 Childline Freefone 1800 666 666
Barnardos	4 Christchurch Square, Dublin 8 (01) 453 0355

The Prisons and Places of Detention	
Mountjoy Prison, (male & female) North Circular Road, Dublin 7	(01) 806 2800
St. Patrick's Institution, North Circular Road, Dublin 7	(01) 806 2896
Training Unit, Glengarriff Parade, Dublin 7	(01) 806 2890
Arbour Hill Prison, Arbour Hill, Dublin 7	(01) 671 9333
Shanganagh Castle, Shankill, Co. Dublin	(01) 282 2500
Shelton Abbey, Arklow, Co. Wicklow	(0402) 321 40
Wheatfield Place of Detention, Cloverhill Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22	(01) 626 0011
Cloverhill Prison, Clondalkin, Dublin 22	(01) 630 4500
Portlaoise Prison, Portlaoise, Co. Laois	(0502) 213 18
Limerick Prison, Mulgrave St., Limerick	(061) 415 101
Cork Prison, Rathmore Road, Cork	(021) 503 277
Fort Mitchel Prison, Spike Island, Cobh, Co. Cork	(021) 378 666
Loughan House, Blacklion, Co. Cavan	(072) 531 70
Curragh Prison, Curragh, Co. Kildare	(045) 441 363
Castlerea Prison, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon	(0907) 252 00