



Victims and Justice

Dutch Code of Criminal Procedure.

The rights of the victim.

Section 51a

1. Anyone who as a direct consequence of a criminal offence has suffered a financial loss or other disadvantage qualifies as a victim. The legal entity that as a direct consequence of a criminal offence has suffered a financial loss or other disadvantage is put on a par with a victim.
2. The public prosecutor shall ensure that the victim is treated in a correct manner.
3. The police and the public prosecutor shall inform any victim, further to their request, of the commencement date and progress in the criminal case against the suspect. The police shall in particular notify the victim of the decision to drop the investigation or the decision to drop the charges against a suspect. The public prosecutor shall notify the victim of the commencement and continuation dates of the prosecution, the date and time of the hearing and of the final judgment in the criminal case against the suspect. Where appropriate, and in any case where the case concerns a criminal offence referred to in Section 51e(4), he shall also inform the victim, upon request, of the suspect's or convict's release.
4. At the victim's request, the victim shall also be informed of the ways in which he may obtain damages.

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1. You're not alone in this

Theft, violence, robbery, burglary or a traffic accident. You all read about it in the paper, but it may also happen to you. Are you a victim or a surviving relative? You're not alone in this. Slachtofferhulp Nederland (Victim Support in the Netherlands) is an organization specializing in assisting victims of a criminal offence or traffic accident. The employees of Slachtofferhulp Nederland offer free emotional support and practical and legal assistance. The police and the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) take into account your interests as the victim in the criminal proceedings. This brochure describes your rights as a victim or a surviving relative in the criminal proceedings, how the criminal proceedings work and what help is available. Usually, surviving relatives have the same rights as victims.

Definition of a victim	A victim is someone who has suffered a financial loss or other disadvantage as a direct consequence of a criminal offence. Under certain circumstances, a legal entity (such as a foundation or a business) can also be a victim.
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Definition of a surviving relative	The law defines as surviving relative: the spouse, registered civil partner or life companion, blood relatives in the direct line in the first degree (children and parents) or blood relatives in the collateral line in the second degree (siblings), and, in a specific number of cases, the heirs too.
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You have rights

Based on the law, the police, the public prosecutor and the judge have the duty to treat you, the victim, with respect, and to take into account your interests. As a victim, you also have specific rights in the criminal proceedings. Some rights apply to all victims, such as the right to information. Other rights, such as the right to speak in court, only apply to victims of particular criminal offences.

Surviving relatives are also entitled to be treated with respect and to information on the criminal case. In some cases, the rights of surviving relatives differ from the rights of victims. Slachtofferhulp Nederland can inform you of your rights.

Which rights you have also depend on the stage of the criminal proceedings. That is explained in more detail in chapter 3. That chapter also describes with whom you have to deal in the criminal proceedings.

2. Rights of victims in criminal proceedings

All victims have the right to a correct treatment, information and recovery of their damage or loss.

Correct treatment

The police, the public prosecutor and the judge must treat you, the victim, with respect and take into account your interests.

Information

As a victim, you are entitled to information. You should know what your rights are and where your case stands. The police and the public prosecutor will ask you whether you want to be kept informed. If you indicate that you want to be kept informed, you will be notified of the progress of your case.

Recovery of damage or loss

Many people falling victim to a criminal offence suffer damage or loss. That damage may be of a material nature, but it may also be emotional. Material damage can be expressed in terms of money. Examples are broken glasses or loss of income. Surviving relatives can for example recover funeral costs. Emotional damage (compensation for pain and suffering) is damage that is not immediately visible or tangible, such as damage to your reputation or grief. Within the criminal proceedings, you can recover your damage or loss at different moments. Chapter 3 describes the stages of the criminal proceedings and you can see at each stage how you can recover your damage or loss.

Apart from the above rights, victims are in specific cases described in the law entitled to:

Inspect of the file and adding documents to the file

If you want to inspect the file in your case, you can request the public prosecutor permission to read the court documents. You can also ask the public prosecutor to add documents to the file, such as a victim's personal statement. The public prosecutor can refuse the inspection of particular documents, in the interest of the investigation.

Legal assistance and interpreter

During the hearing, you may be represented by counsel. If you do not have sufficient command of the Dutch language, you may bring an interpreter to the hearing. You may also ask the Public Prosecution Service to retain an interpreter for you.

Right to speak

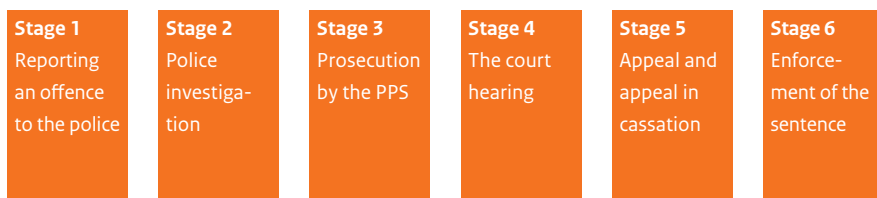
At the hearing, victims of serious criminal offences or surviving relatives can tell the court about the impact of the criminal offence on their lives.

Payment from Schadefonds Geweldsmisdrijven (Violent Offences Compensation Fund)

Victims who sustained major injuries as a result of the serious offence can obtain a lump-sum payment from the Schadefonds Geweldsmisdrijven.

3. The stages in the criminal proceedings

Criminal proceedings have a number of stages. Not every victim will be involved with every stage. The stages you will have to do with depend, for example, on the question whether there is a suspect, whether there is enough evidence, whether the public prosecutor wants to deal with the case himself, or wants to submit it to the court, whether the perpetrator is convicted and whether appeal is lodged against the judgment.



Stage 1 – Reporting an offence or incident

If you are the victim of a criminal offence, you can report that to the police. Reporting an offence or incident does not necessarily result in a police report. The police and Slachtofferhulp Nederland can inform you of the consequences of a police report in your specific situation. The police are obliged to take down your statement and you are entitled to a copy of that statement. The police must also inform you of your rights in the criminal proceedings and the role you can play in it.

Anonymity

It is possible to report an offence without revealing your identity only in exceptional cases. Often, the suspect and the victim know each other, which makes it impossible to remain anonymous. However, you can liaise with the police on opting for an address for service (or postal address). This means that the address of your employer or that of the police station is recorded in the police report. In that case, your home address does not appear in the file.

Slachtofferhulp Nederland

Slachtofferhulp Nederland is an organization that helps victims of a crime or traffic accident. The organization can provide you with information on your rights and staff members can help you with practical and legal matters, such as recovering your loss or damage or completing papers. They are also there to help you if you want to talk about what has happened to you. This support is free of charge. Slachtofferhulp Nederland can be contacted during business hours on 0900-0101 (local rate). You can also apply for help via the www.slachtofferhulp.nl website.

Stage 2 – Police investigation

The police will assess whether there are enough leads to carry out an investigation into your case. If so, it will look for a suspect. If the police arrests a suspect and concludes that it has enough evidence, it will present the case to the public prosecutor. The public prosecutor controls the investigation and determines what has to be done in a case. If the police cannot carry out an investigation or if the police has no suspect, your report will nevertheless be kept in the police system. You will be informed should the police find a suspect at a later date.

Suspect or perpetrator

In a police investigation and prosecution by the Public Prosecution Service, we always talk about suspects. A person is not called a convict or perpetrator until sentenced by a court.

Investigation and prosecution

Although you, as a victim, play a role in the proceedings and have your own rights, you are not an official party to the criminal proceedings. In the Netherlands, the PPS is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of criminal offences. That means that the PPS controls the police investigation. The PPS also decides whether or not the case is presented to the court and in its decision, it has to take into account your interests.

Information

If you reported a criminal offence to the police, the police have to inform you of the progress in the investigation. The police will ask you whether you appreciate receiving such information. The police will let you know whether or not the case has been sent to the PPS or that the charges are dropped.

If you are a victim of an offence entitling you to speak in court (see below, stage 4: right to speak), the police will let you know if the suspect is no longer kept in custody.

Damage or loss

The police will ask you whether you sustained any damage or loss. If you sustained any damage or loss, you have to specify in the best possible way the extent of your damage or loss. The police can mediate between the victim and the perpetrator. The police will do so in straight-forward cases involving minor damage or loss.

Slachtofferloket (Victim's Bureau)

The police, Slachtofferhulp Nederland, and the PPS have set up a so-called 'victim's bureau'. Staff at this bureau can tell you more about your criminal case and your rights. For more information, please visit www.slachtofferloket.nl.

Compulsory blood sample from suspect

In some cases, it is compulsory for a suspect to be tested for contagious or sexually transmitted diseases, shortly after their arrest. It may be important to you as a victim to know the result. The police can tell you more about this.

Property confiscated

Sometimes, the police will confiscate property of you, the victim, for example to be used in evidence. The public prosecutor will in the end decide what will happen to this property. You can contact the victim's bureau to hear whether a decision has been made on your property. If you want it back, you can submit a written request to the public prosecutor.

Stage 3 – Prosecution by the Public Prosecution Service (PPS)

If the police have arrested a suspect, it will send the case to the public prosecutor.

The public prosecutor has several options in a case:

- *Dismiss a case*: the public prosecutor will not pursue the case, for example because there is not enough evidence. In that case, he decides against prosecution. The public prosecution can also dismiss a case on conditions. One of those conditions is for example paying the damage or loss

sustained. If the suspect pays the damage or loss, he will not be prosecuted.

- *On-the-spot fine and punishment order*: the public prosecutor may decide to handle the case himself. He will make a deal with the suspect (on-the-spot fine) or imposes a punishment (punishment order). As part of the punishment, the suspect may be ordered to compensate the victim's damage or loss. If the suspect is uncooperative or does not accept the deal, it will be up to the court to hand down a sentence.
- *Take the case to court/to serve a summons*: the public prosecutor may also immediately decide to present the case to the court. He will do so by serving a summons upon the suspect.

Information

As soon as the PPS takes up on your case, you will receive a letter and a form. You can use this form to indicate whether or not you want to be kept up to date on progress in the case. It is important that you return the form completed to the PPS. Otherwise, you will no longer receive any information.

If you have become a victim of a serious crime, it is possible to request a meeting with the public prosecutor.

If you want to inspect certain documents in the file, you can request the public prosecutor for permission. If you want to obtain a copy of those documents, you will have to pay the cost, unless you need the documents to substantiate your request for damages.

As a victim, you can also ask the public prosecutor to add certain documents to the file. The public prosecutor can withhold permission to inspect documents or to add documents to the file. You will be informed of that decision in writing. You can file a notice of objection against this decision to the court. Slachtofferhulp Nederland can help you with all these matters described above.

Right to complain about the public prosecutor's decision

The public prosecutor may decide to dismiss the case, for example because there is not enough evidence. You will be informed of that decision in writing. Occasionally, the public prosecutor will inform you thereof in person. You have the option of filing a notice of objection against this decision with the Court of Appeal.

District Court, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of the Netherlands

The Netherlands has several different courts. All cases are first heard before a District Court. When the public prosecutor or the suspect does not agree with the judgment of the court, he may file an appeal. The appeal will then be heard by a Court of Appeal. The judges of a Court of Appeal are referred to as raadsheren (which may be women too). They will review the case. The highest court in the Netherlands is the Supreme Court. That Court merely reviews whether or not the rules and the law have been applied correctly, i.e. not the facts of the case.

Recovery of damage or loss via the PPS

If the public prosecutor handles the case himself, he must take into account the damage or loss sustained by you. The PPS will send you a damage claims form. On this form, you can specify the damage or loss sustained and how much that is expressed in money. You will have to prove that you actually have sustained the damage or loss claimed. You can do so, for example, by submitting receipts. If you do not have those, and the case is handled by the PPS, the PPS will assess on the basis of fixed amounts the extent to which he can support the amount of the claim made.

Unless it has received a damage claims form from you, the PPS cannot assess the amount of the damage or loss sustained and whether it can be recovered from the suspect. Slachtofferhulp Nederland can help you complete the form. You can find an example of this form on www.om.nl. The public prosecutor can ask the suspect to pay you damages, but he can also impose a duty to do so. He can tell the suspect, for example, that he will not pursue the case, provided that the suspect compensates your damage or loss.

Recovery of damages/loss via the court

If the public prosecutor presents the case to the court, the court will look at your claim for damages. In that case, you will recover the damage or loss via the court. The form completed by you will be used as the starting point. How this procedure works, is described below in stage 4.

If the case does not result in a conviction, or your claim is not allowed by the court, you are entitled to recover the damage or loss sustained by you by initiating civil proceedings. Slachtofferhulp Nederland can tell you more about these proceedings.

Damage or loss and funds

If you need more information or assistance in your pursuit to recover your damage or loss, you can get this from Slachtofferhulp Nederland, free of charge. In many cases, legal support from Slachtofferhulp Nederland is enough. However, you could also retain the services of a lawyer.

If you are the victim of a violent offence and have sustained injuries, you can rely on benefits from the Schadefonds Geweldsmisdrijven (Violent Offences Compensation Fund). In a number of cases, surviving relatives also qualify for such payment.

If you are the victim of a traffic accident, and have sustained damage or loss, you can rely on benefits from the Waarborgfonds Motorverkeer (Dutch Motor Traffic Guarantee Fund) (www.wbf.nl). Slachtofferhulp Nederland can help you with this. Chapter 4 provides more information on these Funds.

Stage 4 – the hearing

The judge of the Criminal Division of the District Court will be the first to hear the case. He will give judgment on the evidence and the punishment. In simple criminal cases, this is done by one judge, the police judge. Complicated or serious criminal cases are heard by a panel of three judges. We call that a meervoudige kamer, i.e. a three-judge section.

Information

The PPS will send you a letter stating the time and location of the criminal hearing. You are not obliged to attend the hearing. You can also someone from Slachtofferhulp Nederland to accompany you. For more information, please contact the Victim's Bureau.

Victim as a witness

A victim may be summoned as a witness. Witnesses are in principle obliged to attend the criminal hearing and make a statement there. You can read more about this in the brochure entitled “U bent getuige in een strafproces” (You are a witness in a criminal case). (www.rechtspraak.nl)

Confrontation with the suspect

Hearings are open to the public, unless the suspect is a minor. Public and the press may be present. The suspect and his relatives may also be present. For victims, there is a possibility at the courts to wait for the hearing in a separate room. Sometimes, however, you will nevertheless run into the

suspect or his relatives. Someone from Slachtofferhulp Nederland can accompany you to the hearing, if you would like that.

During the hearing, victims are usually given a seat on the public gallery. If you have intimated that you want to exercise your right to speak, if you have submitted a victim's personal statement or if you have joined the criminal proceedings, you may be asked to take a seat in the court room (see below for a further explanation Recovery of damage or loss during the hearing). The suspect is seated at the front, facing the judge.

On the websites of Slachtofferhulp Nederland (www.slachtofferhulp.nl), and the courts (www.rechtspraak.nl), you can find more information on the proceedings of a court hearing.

It also features a short video on what happens during a hearing.

Interpreter

If your command of Dutch is not adequate, you can ask the public prosecutor or the judge for an interpreter, as long as you do so long enough before the date of the hearing. The public prosecutor will arrange and pay the interpreter. You can also ask a relative or friend/acquaintance to interpret for you.

Recovery of damage or loss during the hearing

The PPS has sent you a damage claims form to recover your damage or loss. With that form, you will join the criminal case as an injured party. Joining thus means that you claim recovery of your damage or loss in the criminal proceedings.

If you have not returned the completed form in time, you can tell the court at the hearing that you want to claim damages. You will have to tell the court usher this before or immediately at the beginning of the hearing. It is better to submit the form as soon as possible to the PPS. That gives the public prosecutor the opportunity to assess the damage or loss and the judge then also has time to look into it.

At the hearing, the judge may ask you to explain your damage or loss. Based on the file, the suspect's statement, your explanation and the public prosecutor's statement, the judge will determine whether the perpetrator must pay damages to you. The judge's ruling (the judgment) will state whether or not the suspect has to compensate the damage or loss. If the suspect is younger than 14, you can also claim damages from the suspect's parents, in the same manner.

Right to speak

Victims of serious crimes or surviving relatives have a right to speak in court. That means that you can tell at the hearing what impact the crime has had on your life. Minor victims can also give a statement.

If you want to speak during the hearing, it is important that you prepare this properly. There are rules as to what you can and cannot say under this right. Moreover, it is good to realize that there may be members of the press in the court room, and that the suspect may also be present. Slachtofferhulp Nederland can help you with these preparations.

Some examples of crimes where the victim/surviving has a right to speak:

Murder and manslaughter	Rape/assault
Violent theft (e.g. a robbery)	Human trafficking
Threat	Grievous bodily harm
Stalking	Extortion

Victim's personal statement

If you do not want to speak at the hearing, you can prepare a personal statement and have it added to the file. That way, you can inform the courts of how the crime has affected you. Slachtofferhulp Nederland can help you prepare such a personal statement.

You can find more information on preparing a victim's personal statement and the right to speak in the brochure entitled "Schriftelijke slachtofferverklaring en spreekrecht" (Victim's personal statement and the right to speak) (www.slachtofferhulp.nl).

Legal assistance

As a victim in a criminal case, you generally do not need a lawyer. However, you can retain the services of a lawyer to represent you in court. If you sustained a large amount of damage or loss and it is hard to properly explain this, it might be wise to discuss this with a lawyer. Retaining the services of a lawyer, however, costs money. Victims of serious violent and sexual crimes qualify for state-funded legal aid. For victims of other offences/crimes, the income and capital of the victim determine whether or not they qualify for state-funded legal aid.

The Raad voor Rechtsbijstand (Legal Aid Council) assesses whether or not you qualify for free legal aid. You can obtain more information from the Legal Aid and Advice Centre (www.hetjl.nl) in your area, from the Legal Aid Council (www.rvr.org) or from Slachtofferhulp Nederland (www.slachtofferhulp.nl).

Legal Aid and Advice Centre

You can go to the Legal Aid and Advice Centre for information and advice if you have a legal question or problem. The Legal Aid and Advice Centre can also verify whether or not you qualify for state-funded legal aid.

Stage 5 – Appeal and Appeal in Cassation

In a criminal case, a court has several decisions to choose from. Sometimes, a suspect is not convicted, because the court holds that there is not enough evidence. In that case, the suspect is acquitted. But there are other decisions possible, which do not result in the suspect being convicted. In those cases, the court cannot award the injured party damages.

If the suspect or the public prosecutor disagrees with the decision of the court, he may file an appeal. As a victim, you cannot influence this, because the PPS is a party in the criminal proceedings vis-à-vis the suspect, unlike the victim. Filing an appeal means that the judges of a Court of Appeal will hear the case again. On appeal, the court again hands down a decision on the evidence and the punishment. If the suspect or the public prosecutor disagrees with the decision in the appeal proceedings, there usually is the option of filing an appeal in cassation with the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court merely looks at the legal issues of a case, and not at what exactly happened.

Information

The public prosecutor will inform you as to whether an appeal has been filed. For the duration of the appeal proceedings, the sentence will not be enforced. It usually takes several months to a year before the appeal is being heard. Hearings before a Court of Appeal are similar to those before the District Court. After the hearing before the Court of Appeal, the case may be presented to the Supreme Court. The PPS will inform you as to whether an appeal in cassation has been filed.

Damage or loss

In the first instance, the District Court will decide on allowing your claim for compensation. If the District Court holds that your damage or loss should not be compensated in full, you can apply to the Court of Appeal to review your claim. In that case, you have to submit the damage claims form again with the Court of Appeal. You cannot ask for more money than the initial claim filed with the public prosecutor and the District Court. The advocate general (this is the public prosecutor at the Court of Appeal) will send you a letter before the hearing, asking you whether or not you wish to maintain your prior claim in the appeal proceedings.

If an appeal in cassation is lodged, and that appeal also concerns the damages you claim, you have thirty days to prepare and submit a statement of defence with the help of a lawyer.

If the judgment is not appealed, you as the injured party can independently file an appeal with the civil court. The civil court does not rule on the punishment of the suspect, but only looks at the amount you wish to recover from the perpetrator.

Right to speak

In the appeal proceedings, you again have the right to address the court, even when you did not do so at the District Court. If you so wish, you can discuss this best with the advocate general (the public prosecutor at the Court of Appeal). The advocate general will again give you the opportunity to exercise this right.

Stage 6 – Enforcement of the sentence

If neither the suspect nor the public prosecutor files an appeal or an appeal in cassation, or if all these proceedings have been completed, the court ruling becomes final and conclusive. From that moment, the sentence imposed by the court can be enforced.

Information

The PPS will inform victims of the court ruling. The PPS will tell the victims whether or not the court imposed a sentence or gave an order, such as a restraining or contact order.

Where it concerns serious crimes (the category where victims have a right to speak) and the court has imposed a prison sentence, the PPS will inform the victims of any leave granted to the perpetrator. The PPS will also inform them of the date of release from prison, forensic hospital or juvenile institution.

If you wish to obtain a copy of the judgment, you have to request this from the registry of the District Court or Court of Appeal.

Damage or loss

If the court has determined that the perpetrator must pay you damages and has ordered the perpetrator to do so (order for damages), you need not take any action. The Centraal Justitiele Incassobureau (Central Fine Collection Agency) will collect the money due from the perpetrator and will remit this amount immediately to your account. In that case, you will receive a letter from the Central Fine Collection Agency (CJIB). This letter contains information on how you will receive the money. In some cases, the CJIB also advances the amount specified in the order for damages, even if the perpetrator has not yet paid the amount (either in part or in full).

The court can also allow your claim for damages without giving an order for damages. In that case, you can recover the damages from the perpetrator on the basis of the judgment. To that end, you can retain the services of a bailiff. If you have joined the criminal proceedings as the injured party, you automatically receive a copy of the judgment. Otherwise, you can ask the registry of the District Court or Court of Appeal where the case was heard to provide you with a copy.

Central Fine Collection Agency

The Central Fine Collection Agency collects fines for speed violations. In addition, it collects damages from a perpetrator on behalf of the victim, if the court has imposed an order for damages. The CJIB can take measures to enforce payment, such as deploying a bailiff. The CJIB will inform you of any progress and collection procedure via the Slachtoffer Informatiepunt Schadevergoedingsmaatregelen (Victims' Information Point on Orders for Damages).

The advance scheme

Victims of violent and sexual crimes can qualify for the advance scheme. In that case, the Centraal Justitieel Incassobureau will pay you the amount (or the balance) eight months after the judgment has become final and conclusive. Whether or not your damage or loss falls under the advance scheme depends on a number of conditions. In any case, the court must have given an order for damages. The Central Fine Collection Agency will not cease its efforts to recover the amount from the perpetrator.

For more information, please contact the Central Fine Collection Agency, tel. no. 0900-7537 537 (premium-rate number, only available in the Netherlands) or www.cjib.nl

Whom can I turn to?**What are my rights?**

Please note: not every victim has the same rights. Employees of the organizations listed can tell you which rights you have and may exercise.

Stage 1 Reporting an offence	The police Slachtofferhulp Nederland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To report an offence or incident - Information about your rights - Information about your case - Relief and support - Blood test taken from the suspect
Stage 2 Police investigation	The police Slachtofferhulp Nederland Public Prosecution Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information about the case - Recovery of damage or loss - Information about the suspect's release from custody
Stage 3 Prosecution	The police Public Prosecution Service Slachtofferhulp Nederland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information about the case - Recovery of damage or loss - Inspection of file - Addition of documents to file - Information about the suspect's release from custody - To complain about the decision to dismiss the case - Meeting with the public prosecutor
Stage 4 The hearing	Public Prosecution Service Slachtofferhulp Nederland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information about the case - Oral explanation of your claim for damages - Right to speak/victim's personal statement - Interpreter - Legal Aid/Lawyer
Stage 5 Appeal and Appeal in Cassation	Public Prosecution Service Slachtofferhulp Nederland	<p><i>Appeal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information about the case - Oral explanation of your claim for damages - Right to speak/victim's personal statement - Interpreter - Legal Aid/Lawyer <p><i>Appeal in Cassation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information about your case - Interpreter - Legal Aid/Lawyer
Stage 6 Enforcement of the sentence	Public Prosecution Service Slachtofferhulp Nederland Central Fine Collection Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information about the case - Collection of damages by CJIB - Information about the perpetrator's leave and release
All stages	Slachtofferhulp Nederland Violent Offences Compensation Fund Slachtoffer in Beeld	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assistance - Benefit from Damages Fund - Meeting between victim and perpetrator

4. Help for victims in the criminal proceedings

If you are the victim of a very serious violent crime, or you are a surviving relative of a homicide, the police, the Public Prosecution Service and Slachtofferhulp Nederland will offer you extra support. In most cases, this implies that you will get your own contacts with these organizations; these individuals will support you during all or part of the criminal proceedings. At the police, this contact is called familierechercheur (family detective), at the PPS, the zaakcoördinator (case coordinator) and at Slachtofferhulp Nederland a special social worker, the case manager.

Slachtofferhulp Nederland

Slachtofferhulp Nederland is a national organization that gives practical, legal and emotional support to people who are the victim of a crime, a traffic accident or a contingency. Even if you have not reported an offence or incident to the police, you can contact Slachtofferhulp Nederland. If you do report an offence or incident, the police will pass on your details to Slachtofferhulp Nederland, unless you object to it. Someone from Slachtofferhulp Nederland will contact you within two business days. You can also contact them by telephone (0900-0101, local rate). The assistance provided by Slachtofferhulp Nederland is free of charge and they have no waiting lists. For more information, please visit www.slachtofferhulp.nl

Schadefonds Geweldsmisdrijven (Violent Offences Compensation Fund)

The Schadefonds Geweldsmisdrijven (Violent Offences Compensation Fund) gives financial support to people who have fallen victim to a violent crime due to which they suffered serious injuries. Such crimes are a robbery, being threatened with a weapon, assault, rape, but also domestic violence, stalking or incest. The Violent Offences Compensation Fund is an independent organization which is funded by the government. The fund pays one-off compensation for emotional damage inflicted on the victims (compensation for pain and suffering) and for material damage on account of injuries, such as medical expenses and loss of income.

If you want to qualify for such compensation, you need to meet a number of conditions. You can check these out on www.schadefonds.nl.

Waarborgfonds Motorverkeer (Dutch Motor Traffic Guarantee Fund)

If you are the victim of a traffic accident or have sustained damage, you can rely on a payment from the Waarborgfonds Motorverkeer (Dutch Motor Traffic Guarantee Fund). Slachtofferhulp Nederland can help you in this respect. For more information on Dutch Motor Traffic Guarantee Fund , please go to www.wbf.nl

Slachtoffer in Beeld (Victim in the Picture)

If you have just fallen victim to a criminal offence, you probably do not feel the need for a confrontation with the perpetrator. That may change over time. Some victims want to know what the perpetrator looks like, have questions, or want to tell the perpetrator what impact the crime has on them. Slachtoffer in Beeld is an organization that can arrange contact between victims and perpetrators. A professional mediator of Slachtoffer in Beeld will supervise the process. The mediator adopts a neutral position. There are various ways in which mediation can take place. It is not always necessary for the perpetrator and the victim to meet each other. Contact between a victim and a perpetrator is always voluntary. Both parties have to agree to the mediation.

For more information, please visit www.slachtofferinbeeld.nl

5. More information

- Slachtofferloket (Victim's Bureau), www.slachtofferloket.nl
- Slachtofferhulp Nederland, www.slachtofferhulp.nl, 0900 0101 (local rate)
- CJIB / Slachtoffer Informatiepunt Schadevergoedingsmaatregelen (Central Fine Collection Agency/ Victims' Information Point on Orders for Damages), 0900 753 7537
- Slachtoffer in beeld (Victim in the Picture), www.slachtofferinbeeld.nl
- Schadefonds Geweldsmisdrijven (Violent Offences Compensation Fund), www.schadefonds.nl, 070-4142000
- Openbaar Ministerie (Public Prosecution Service), www.om.nl
- The Police, 0900-8844 and www.politie.nl
- Rechtspraak (the Judiciary), www.rechtspraak.nl
- Juridisch Loket (Legal Aid and Advice Centre), www.hetjl.nl



Justice. The law touches
people.

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www.rijksoverheid.nl
www.slachtofferloket.nl

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