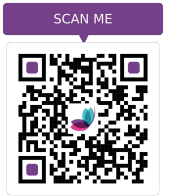




Victim of crime information



This is an Easy Read leaflet for people who have been harmed because of a crime, where someone has broken the law.

It tells you:

- what happens after a crime has been reported
- which services will support you
- what help you can get



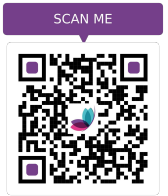
If you are a victim of a crime, we will give you:

- a crime number
- contact details of the Police Officer who is looking into your case
- we call them the investigating officer.
- keep this information safe





Victim of crime information



What happens next?

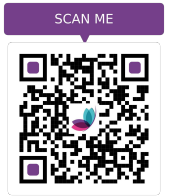
We will:

- carry out an investigation – this is where we will look at the facts and try to find out what has happened
- decide if we have enough information to carry on with the case
- tell you if we don't have enough information and we may have to close the case. Your Police Officer will contact you to explain why
- tell you if there is enough information and we can carry on looking into the case
- talk to witnesses – people who can tell us what happened and ask them to write things down
- get evidence – information that we can use to show what has happened
- take statements – ask witnesses to write down what happened





Victim of crime information



Keeping in touch

Your Police Officer will contact you to tell you what is happening with the case.



You can tell them how you would prefer to be contacted, by phone, email or another safe way.



They will tell you if a suspect (a suspect is the person who the police think broke the law) is being:

- arrested – taken to the Police station
- interviewed – asked questions
- released – allowed home
- bailed – being allowed out of prison until they have to go back to court
- charged - a charge is when the Police officially tell someone which law they think the person has broken.



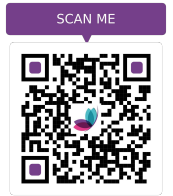
They will also tell you if a case has to be closed.



For more information visit: [https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/victim-support/ what-happens-after-you- report-crime/](https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/victim-support/what-happens-after-you-report-crime/)



Victim of crime information



Victim Personal Statement (VPS)

You can make a special statement called a Victim Personal Statement (VPS). This says how the crime has affected you.

You can make a Victim Personal Statement at any time in writing.



The best time, for most people, is when the suspect has been charged with the crime.



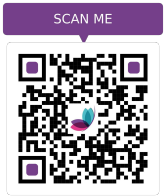
If the case goes to Court, it will help the Court to understand how the crime has affected you.



For further information speak to your investigating officer or visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/victim-personal-statement>



Victim of crime information



Help and Support



The Victim Advice Line is a free, confidential service for people affected by crime in Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire.

We understand that crime affects everyone in different ways.

You will have a care co-ordinator who will work with you to give you the help and support you need.

We provide support for as long as you need it.

Here are the ways that you can contact us:

Phone: 0800 952 3000

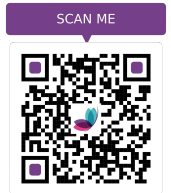
Email: info@victimadviceline.org.uk

Live chat: www.victimadviceline.org.uk

Information on other local support services can be found at: <https://victimadviceline.org.uk/specialist-service/>



Victim of crime information



Restorative justice

If you still have questions and you want to let the person know how their crime has affected you, you can ask about restorative justice.

Restorative justice means trying to make things better for the victim instead of just punishing the offender for a crime.

If you would like to, you may be given the opportunity to talk to your offender and explain how their crime affected you.

It can help some victims to cope better and to recover from the crime by taking part in this scheme.

Further information on restorative justice can be found at: <https://victimadvice.org.uk/victim-advice-parent/restorative-justice/>



Going to Court

If you are asked to give evidence in Court, you will be given a Witness Care Officer.

The Witness Care Officer will be your contact all through the trial and will make sure that you know when and where the trial will be and exactly what will happen on the day

They will answer any questions you have.

They will make sure that you are ready for the trial.

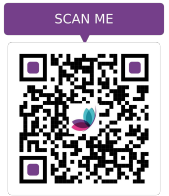
They can also sort out a visit to the Court before the trial and any other things that might help you to give your evidence.

For more information, visit: <https://victimandwitnessinformation.org.uk/the-court-process>





Victim of crime information



Ministry
of Justice



Victim's Code of Practice

The Victim's Code of Practice says what service you should get from the Police and other Criminal Justice Agencies from when you report a crime to the Police, until the end of the trial.

Find out more at <https://victimandwitnessinformation.org.uk/your-rights>

Victim's Code – Easy Read

1. To be able to understand and to be understood

2. To have your crime recorded straight away

3. To get information about what will happen when you report a crime

4. To be told which services support victims and how they can help you

5. To get information about compensation - money you can get if you are hurt or damage is done and it is not your fault

6. To be given information about the case and if someone will be charged

7. To make a Victim Personal Statement to say how the crime has affected you

8. To be given information about what happens in a trial, and what a witness has to do

9. To be told what happens at the end of a case and if there is an appeal

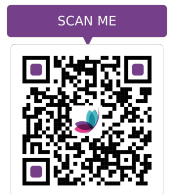
10. To claim back money you spent to go to court and to have any property returned

11. To be given information about the offender if they are found guilty

12. To make a complaint



Victim of crime information



Compensation

Compensation is money that you can get if you are a victim of crime and you have been hurt or if something is damaged or lost and it is not your fault.

For further information please visit:

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ar/applyregister/vc/compensation-for-victims-of-crime/>



Right to Review Scheme

If we decide we don't have enough information to charge a suspect and the case doesn't go to court, you can ask for it to be looked at again.

This is called the Victim's Right to Review Scheme.



For further information please visit:

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/victim-support/victims-right-review-scheme/>



Complaints

You can complain to the Police if you are not happy about any of our services.



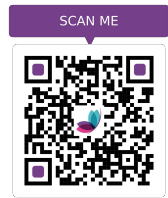
To find out more please visit

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/c/af/complaints/>





Victim of crime information



Sign up to Neighbourhood Matters

Neighbourhood Matters is a community messaging service.

It keeps local people, businesses and community groups in touch with the Police in their area.

You can choose how you want to be contacted and how often.

Sign up now at: www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk



VICTIM ADVICE LINE
WEST MERCIA

If you need this information in a different way or in a different language, please ask your officer or contact the Victim Advice Line on: 0800 952 3000



This leaflet has links to other websites to help you find the information that you might need.

West Mercia Police cannot be responsible for the information on these other websites.

You can find more information here:



- for crime prevention:
www.westmercia.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention

- for crimes in progress call 999

- for non-emergencies report online:
www.westmercia.police.uk/report

