

## **Cooperation Regarding Investigations**

An inconvenient request from the police may impose a strain on your vi cooperation during the criminal proceeding . Please cooperate with the police to assure that others do not suffer the same fate.

### Interview

The police investigator in charge will ask you about the situation in detail, such as damage, or the suspect's appearance. There may be things you do not want to be reminded of or speak about, however, these things are requested in order to identify the suspects and prove the facts constituting the crime. The more details are discovered, the faster and smoother the investigation will proceed, and lead to prompt arrest of the suspect.

# Submission of Evidence

In order to identify the suspects and prove the facts constituting the crime, victims may be asked to submit evidence such as the clothes that you were wearing or your belongings at the time of the crime. Such material evidence can have a great impact on the outcome of a trial and it is recommended that victims cooperate with the police in supplying this information.



Victims may also be asked to testify some time during the trial (this is called "Examination of a Witness").

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Systems Available for Crime Victims, etc.

#### «Police Support System for Crime victims »

# Designated Victim Support System

When crimes such as homicide, assault, injury, hit and run or fatal traffic accidents that require specialized victim support staff assistance occur, a designated police officer supports crime victims as follows.

- Arrangement of a hospital if an assessment by a
- doctor is necessary, accompaniment to hospital. Presence at the on-the-spot investigation
- Presence at the on-the-spot investigation
   Transportation to and from the victim's home
- I ransportation to and from the victim's nome
- Counselling for anxiety issues (personal care issues, etc.)
- Introduction, handover to private victim support groups and external counsellors, etc.

For more information, please feel free to ask Ehime Prefectural Headquarters, or the police station near you.

## Victim information System

A police officer in charge will inform victims of homicide, assault, injury, hit and run or a fatal traffic accident, etc. Information categories are as follows:

- Criminal proceeding and the victim support system
- When the suspect has not been arrested, information on the progress of the investigation will be given as long as it does not interfere with the investigation.
- When the suspect is detained after the arrest, victims will be notified of information such as the prosecutor's office where the suspect was sent, and whether or not the suspect was indicted.
- The court which brought the public action
  Some people simply want to forget about a criminal incident

and do not want to be contacted. In this case the victim or bereaved should inform police investigators.

\* Please note that if the suspect is a juvenile the information provided by police officers will differ from the above explanation.

## Measures to prevent re-victimization and protection measures

#### In case the crime victims, etc. have received any life threatening

intimidation or bodily harm by the same perpetrator, they will be given instruction on crime prevention and placed under security measures when necessary. When there is a request by the victims who are in need of protection to prevent further harm by the perpetrator or there is a need for crime information, such as the release of the perpetrator, these will be provided.

In case the perpetrators are gangsters, crime organizations or corporate racketeers, etc. and the victims are in danger of being harmed by them again, crime victims will be put under necessary protection from any attacks by gangsters, etc. to ensure prevention of victimization.

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# Protective Care for Victims of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse

In case there is a need to protect victims from a perpetrator because of domestic violence (spousal violence), child abuse, stalking, etc., the police will take measures to ensure the victim's safety in collaboration with the Woman Guidance Center and the Child Guidance Center.

For more information, please feel free to ask the investigator in charge, the Woman Guidance Center, or the Child Guidance Center.

## Victims of Crime Benefits System

This system pays benefits to crime victims or a bereaved family of crime victims in the form of a lump-sum payment. Payment categories are classified as follows:

- Survivor Benefits (Paid to bereaved families)
- Serious Injury or Sickness Benefits (Paid to victims who have suffered serious injury that requires treatment of over one month and hospitalization of over three days or mental illnesses such as post-traumatic stress disorder that require treatment of over one month and inhibit a worker from performing a job for more than three days, and the benefits paid to a victim who has paid medical fees personally.

• Disability Benefits (Paid to victims who have suffered disability) For more information, please fell free to ask the police station near you, or the Crime Victim Support Center of Police Headquarters Administration Section.

# Support System for Psychological Trauma

When crime victims receive overwhelming stress under damage from crime, physical and mental responses are as follows:

- Strong fear/anxiety, sleeplessness
- Lack of concentration, replaying the disturbing event in one's mind
- Increase in drinking and smoking
- Headache, stiff shoulders, a feeling of oppression

The police can set up a counseling system to aid a victim's recovery from psychological damage in collaboration with a clinical psychotherapist. etc.

For more information, please feel free to ask the pollice station near you, or Police Headquarters.

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#### (Various Consultation Services In Addition to the Police)

#### System of Public Prosecutors Office Victim Support Officers

Public Prosecutors Office Victim Support Officers supply support service activities such as responding to the various questions that victims may have, guiding and accompanying the victims in the courthouse and helping them with inspection of the trail case records, introduction of concerned authority and other organizations, etc. For more information, please feel free to ask the public prosecutors office or the public prosecutor in charge of the case.

### Victims of Crime Notification System (public procequtors office,

The Prosecutors Office, the Regional Parole Board or the Probation Offices manage the Victims of Crime Notification System. The system provides victims, etc. with information related to the ruling outcome of a case, venue of the trail, the outcome of a criminal trial, criminal's custody details, possible schedule for release from prison and other related information. For more information, please fell free to ask the public prosecutors office or the public prosecutor in chare of the case.

### Attendance at the hearing and notification of the result of the hearing

In cases where a perpetrator who committed a serious crime (such as homicide, arson, etc.) is declared insane and when the public prosecutor does not prosecute the perpetrator, a hearing request will be filed to the District Court to decide the necessity and substance of medical treatment. The crime victims, etc. may request attendance at the hearing, and also request notification of the result of the hearing. For more information, please feel free to ask the public prosecutor or the court in charge of the case.

### Making requests to the Committee for the Inquest of Prosecution

Upon completion of the investigation, the public prosecutor makes a recommendation. As a result of the prosecutor's investigation, the decision of non-prosecution can be made for various reasons. Upon receiving a request from the victims, etc., the Committee for the Inquest of Prosecution will conduct an inquest into cases submitted to them. For more information, please feel free to ask the Committee for the Inquest of Prosecution.

#### Victim Support During Trials

Victims, etc. may be asked to testify as witnesses during trial. At this time, crime victims can take advantage of the following system: "The iudee may provide an attendant or quard for the witness

 A physical shield may be provided to hide the witness' identity from defendants, criminal elements, and spectators in the courtroom.
 A video link can be set up so the witness can testify from a different location. Apart from the above mentioned, the following system is in place for criminal

Inspection and photocopying of the trial case records

trials

There is a system in place that gives crime victims, etc. priority attendance at trials if they so request.

Victim Participation System 
 State-appointed attorneys for victim participants
 Restitution Order System

For more information, please feel free to ask the Public Prosecutors Office, or the court in charge of the case.

#### Civil Law and Financial Restitution

In case the crime is an illegal action under Civil Law, victims can ask for compensation for financial loss and mental anguish. This system is different from the penal procedure. Victims have to file a suit for compensation against illegal action. For more information, please feel free to ask the Court, the JLSC and the Bar Association.

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