



Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014

2014 asp 1

[^{F1}Provision of support to victims

Textual Amendments

- F1** Ss. 3B-3D and cross-headings inserted (23.12.2015) by [The Victims' Rights \(Scotland\) Regulations 2015 \(S.S.I. 2015/444\)](#), regs. 1(2), 4

3D. Referral to providers of victim support services

- (1) The chief constable of the Police Service of Scotland must ensure that, as soon as reasonably practicable after a constable identifies a person who is or appears to be a victim in relation to an offence or alleged offence, a constable informs the person that—
 - (a) the person may request a referral to providers of victim support services from any competent authority, and
 - (b) the person may contact providers of victim support services directly without referral.
- (2) Where a person who is or appears to be a victim in relation to an offence or alleged offence makes a request of a competent authority to be referred to providers of victim support services, the authority must, subject to the views of the person—
 - (a) disclose the person's details to such providers of victim support services as the authority considers appropriate to the person's needs, or
 - (b) provide the person with the name, address and telephone number of the providers of victim support services referred to in paragraph (a).
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) apply in relation to a person who is or appears to be a victim in relation to an offence or alleged offence regardless of whether or not the person has made a complaint about that offence or alleged offence.
- (4) For the purposes of this section—
 - (a) a request made by a person who is or appears to be a victim in relation to an offence or alleged offence to a constable or a member of police staff is

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deemed to be a request made to the chief constable of the Police Service of Scotland, and

- (b) a request made by a person who is or appears to be a victim in relation to an offence or alleged offence to a procurator fiscal is deemed to be a request made to the Lord Advocate.

(5) In this section, “victim support services” means the provision of—

- (a) information, advice and support to victims including information on compensation for criminal injuries, and the participation of victims in criminal proceedings,
- (b) information about any relevant specialist support services in place,
- (c) emotional and, where available, psychological support,
- (d) advice relating to financial and practical issues arising from the crime,
- (e) advice relating to the risk and prevention of—
 - (i) secondary and repeat victimisation,
 - (ii) intimidation, and
 - (iii) retaliation, and
- (f) such other services as a competent authority considers appropriate to the needs of victims.]

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