

Support Services

There are agencies you can contact for help in preparing for and coping with this day.

*Superior North Victim Services
Tel:(807)229-8877 or
(807)826-4171
Website:www.snvs.ca

*Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic
Tel:(807)229-2290

*Legal Aid
Tel:1-866-668-8258
Website:www.legalaid.on.ca

The courts

*Ministry of the Attorney General
Web:
www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca

*Ontario Court of Justice
Tel:(807)625-1600
Youth & Adult Criminal Court and
Family Court

*Superior Court of Justice
Tel:(807)343-2700
Small Claims, Civil Court, Divisional
Court, Family Court and Criminal
Court

Superior North Victim Services offers support, factual information and provides referrals to other services. We can support you during your legal process. Please contact us for assistance and more information.



Marathon
P.O. Box 1165
2 Ontario St. Suite 11
Marathon, ON
POT2E0
Phone: (807) 229-8877
Fax: (807) 229-8894

Manitouwadge
P.O. Box 3035
100 Manitou Rd.
Manitouwadge, ON



Funded by the
Ministry of Attorney General

Understanding the Canadian Criminal Justice System



A Guide
for Victims,
Persons in Conflict
with the Law
and their Families

THE SYSTEM

Whether you are a victim or are in conflict with the law, involvement in the Canadian criminal justice system can be confusing and stressful.

There are many different outcomes, depending on the circumstances of each occurrence. The best way to combat the stress of involvement within the criminal justice system is to have a basic understanding of it.

THE PROCESS

Criminal justice proceedings often seem to take a very long time. While lengthy investigations and court waits may seem excruciating for both victims and persons in conflict with the law, they are necessary to protect the interests of both parties.

There are many steps that must be taken within the criminal justice system. Each step is critical to ensuring justice is served-"the paramount obligation (is) to ensure that all persons are treated fairly" -which applies to both victims and the accused.

Fairness is critical in the Canadian criminal justice system. Victims and their families need to know that persons who have wronged them will be subject to consequences for their actions, chosen based on the severity of the crime and the impact it has on the victim.

At the same time, the accused and their families need legal representation, access to the evidence held against them and time to prepare and to have their voice heard as well. The Canadian criminal justice system is based on the premise that a person is innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. If a person is punished for a crime they did not commit, no one wins.



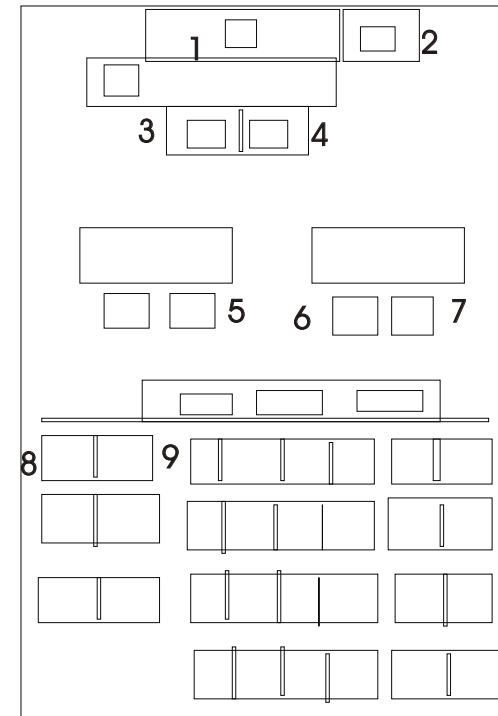
Plea / Trial

Custody or Acquittal
Pre-sentence custody
Community Sentence Order (like a minor house arrest)
Fine
Probation for offender
Absolute Discharge
Peace Bond

Victim

- Try to get a copy of the offenders release papers stating the conditions of the release
- offender may be released without the victim being notified (especially on weekends)

THE COURTROOM



1. Judge

In charge of the courtroom.
Hears the evidence and applies the law.
Decides the verdict and sentence.
Instructs the jury, if present.

2. Witness

Person who provides evidence.

3. Court Clerk

Calls the court to order.
Swears in witnesses.
Catalogues evidence.

4. Court Reporter

Keeps a record of everything said.

5. Defence Attorney

Represents the accused.
Makes argument on verdict and sentence.

6. Crown Attorney

Represents the state.
Makes argument on verdict and sentence.

7. Police officer

8. Court Security Officer

9. Members of public