


Rights of victims of crime in criminal proceedings - Bulgaria

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You will be considered a **victim of crime** if you have suffered damage, e.g. you have been injured or your property has been damaged or stolen, etc., as a result of an incident, which constitutes a crime according to national law. As a victim of crime, the law grants you certain individual rights before, during and after court proceedings (trial).

If you are a **family member of a victim** of a crime who has passed away, you will be able to exercise his/her rights only if you are his /her legal heir.

If you have suffered from one of a number of [very serious crimes](#) (1) you will be given some **additional rights**, regarding the assistance and compensation you can obtain. If you are a child, parent, spouse or cohabitant of a victim of one of those crimes and he/she has passed away as a result of that crime, you will be granted his/her additional rights.

Criminal proceedings in Bulgaria consist of investigation by the police, during which evidence is collected about the offence committed and about its alleged perpetrator. If enough evidence is collected, the case goes to trial. The trial concludes with the court convicting or acquitting the defendant and possible appeals before higher courts. The main objective is to assess who is responsible for committing a certain crime and, subsequently, to determine an appropriate penalty.

If you have suffered from one of a number of [during the investigation of the crime](#), [during the trial](#) or [after the first trial](#). Also, read more about the [help and support you can get](#).

Notes:

1. Crimes entitling victims to additional rights

According to Bulgarian legislation, victims of certain types of crime have additional rights. These crimes are: terrorism, murder, premeditated grave bodily injury, sexual violence and rape that led to serious damage to health, human trafficking, any crime ordered or committed by an organised criminal group or any other serious intentional crime where the immediate consequences are death or serious bodily injury.

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