

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, 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).

Criminal proceedings in Portugal consist of two stages: investigation and trial. During the investigation the police and the public prosecutor investigate the case and collect evidence against the offender. If there is sufficient proof that the alleged offender has committed the crime the public prosecutor brings the case to court for trial. The court examines the collected evidence and convicts or acquits the offender.

The following factsheets will take you through the different steps of the procedure, describing your rights [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](#).

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