

You've reported a crime

What happens next?



Your own notes and contact details

You can note down the details of any people you come into contact with when the crime you saw is being investigated. This way you have all the contact details and important information in one place.

Initial contact with the police

Name of officer:

Phone number of police station:

Officer dealing with the case (if different from above)

Name of officer:

Phone number of officer:

Contact with the Witness Care Unit

Name:

Phone number:

Email:

Contact with Victim Support

Name:

Phone number:

Email:

Crime case details

Crime case reference number:

Phone number of crime desk:

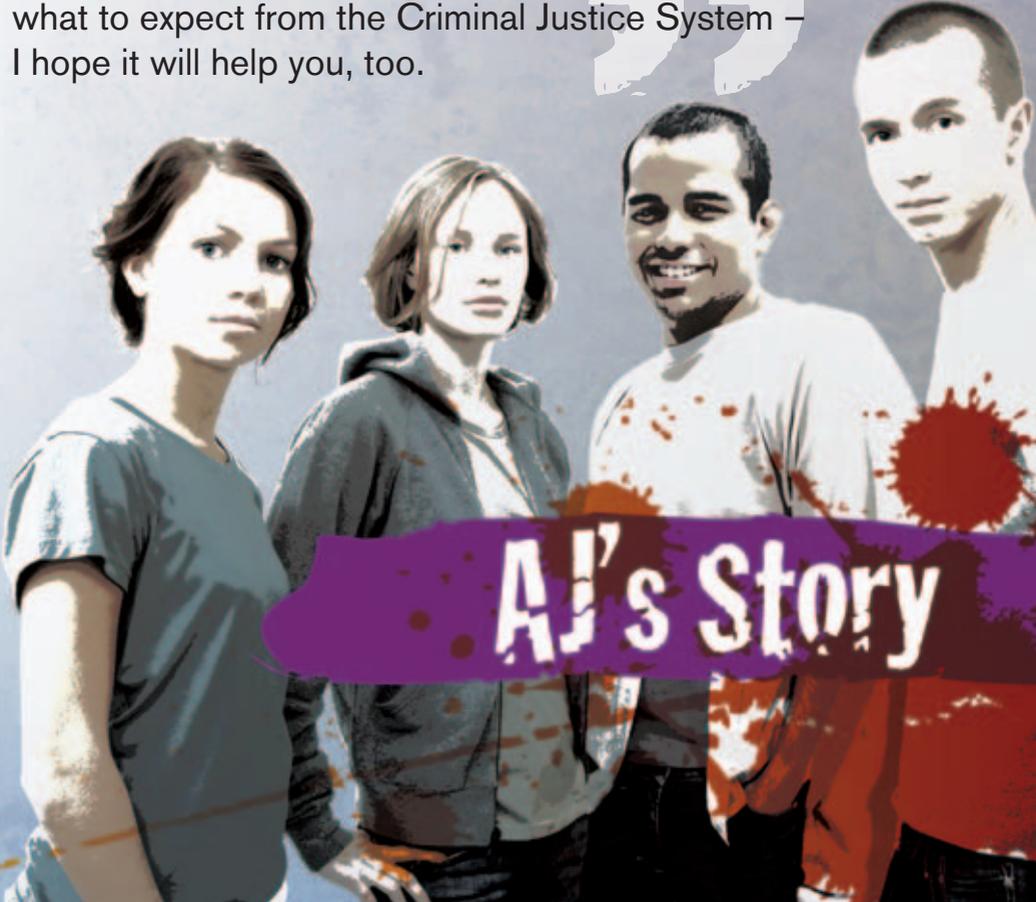
Other notes

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When I experienced a crime it was upsetting – I felt angry because I didn't want to be worrying about it, and I felt frustrated as I didn't really know what to do next. But I was helped by lots of people who were ready to give me free advice and support.

Like you, I decided to report the crime I experienced. I'd never dealt with the police before and, to be honest, I didn't know much about what happens. But the information in this leaflet really helped me to understand what to expect from the Criminal Justice System – I hope it will help you, too.

”



AJ's Story

What happens now?

What the police will do

When you report a crime, the police will let you know how they are going to investigate it and help you to understand what happens next.

- The police will keep you informed of the investigation of your crime – if you wonder what's going on at any stage just contact them for an update.
- If they can't investigate the crime any further, they will give you the reasons why.

AJ's story:

As I was under 17 when I reported the crime, the police got in touch with me through my mum to let me know the next steps. If you would like to be contacted directly you can talk to the police and see if this is possible.

What you can do to help the investigation

Let the police know if:

- you remember anything more about the crime.
- you think the crime involved abuse or was related to someone's race, sexuality, religion, disability or gender.
- you have any specific needs – for example if you have special access, speech or other requirements.

Protecting you against harassment

If you are harassed or threatened in any way during an investigation or a trial, you should contact the police immediately. It is a criminal offence to intimidate anyone helping the police in an investigation.

If you go to court

If you have to go to court as a witness, the Witness Care Unit will contact you. Depending on your case, the police specialist child protection officer or the witness care officer will become your single point of contact. You should be offered the opportunity to visit the court before the trial date so that you can see what it is like. When you get to court the Witness Service will provide you with advice and support.

AJ's story:

When I was asked to give evidence, I felt nervous because I thought that I would be able to see the people who had committed the crime. But I soon learnt that there are 'special measures' for people who feel intimidated or are vulnerable and need help when giving evidence. A screen was placed across the witness box where I had to stand so I couldn't see them and I was able to tell the judge what had happened.

As well as screens, there are a number of other 'special measures' that you can apply for, such as giving your evidence through a live TV link. Why not ask the police and Witness Care Unit to discuss this with you in more detail.

Find out what court is like

A DVD is available called 'Going to Court - a step by step guide to being a witness'. This is worth watching as it tells you what to expect at court and what it's like to be a witness, it may be worth watching this with an adult. You can watch the DVD on line at

www.moj.coionline.tv/videos/goingtocourtvideo

Depending on the type of case, you may receive a 'Young Witness' information pack, which a trained supporter will work through with you. If someone hasn't already gone through the pack with you, the Witness Care Unit will send it to you.

Get advice and support

AJ's story:

After I had experienced the crime, there were quite a few times when I felt I needed a bit of help and support - before I went to the police I visited www.are-you-ok.org.uk to help me decide what to do about what had happened – when I knew I would need to go to court I chatted to Victim Support, as well as the police and the Witness Care Unit, to make sure I knew as much as I could about what happens. So don't be afraid to ask someone for help, however big or small your questions might be.

Advice and support organisations

Victim Support

Victim Support is a national charity that is independent of the police or any other organisation. Their trained volunteers provide a free and confidential service offering emotional and practical support as needed.

Phone: **0845 30 30 900** Lines open Mon to Fri 9am to 9pm, Sat to Sun 9am to 7pm, Bank Holidays 9am to 5pm

Website: www.are-you-ok.org.uk

Calls to 0845 numbers from BT land lines should cost no more than the local rate. You may have to pay more if you use another phone company or a mobile phone, or if you are calling from abroad.

ChildLine

ChildLine is a free confidential helpline for children and young people in the UK. You can talk to ChildLine about anything – no problem is too big or too small.

Phone: **0800 1111**

Website: www.childline.org.uk

Calls to 0800 numbers are free from BT land lines but you may have to pay if you use another phone company, a mobile phone, or if you are calling from abroad.

Your rights

The Victims' Code of Practice

There is a Code of Practice for Victims of Crime that describes what services you can expect from the criminal justice agencies - like the police and the courts - when you have reported a crime. The Code makes sure, for example, that you are kept up to date about what's happening with the crime you experienced. If you feel vulnerable or intimidated, it also sees that your needs are carefully considered.

For more information about the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime go to www.cjsonline.gov.uk/victim

Find out more

Any questions?

Al's story:

It's natural to want to find out as much as you can when you experience a crime – the advice I got really helped me decide what to do and how to do it. So, if you have any questions about what is said in this leaflet, or if you need help getting advice and support, you should contact your local police force – just look them up in your local phonebook or online.

There's also more information about what happens and the support available on www.cjsonline.gov.uk/victim

Braille and other languages

This leaflet is also available in Braille on demand – as well as in a number of different languages.

If you would like to get one of these alternative versions, ask your local police force.



Criminal Justice System: working together for the public

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