

Audition Copy Victims of Crime: The Roles of Victims in Criminal Cases – Part 1

Welcome. If you or your loved one is a victim of crime, this video will help you better understand how the courts can help. But first, let's clarify how you know if you are a victim. The term refers to someone who suffers physical, emotional, or financial harm as a result of a crime. If you are the victim of a crime, you can bring criminal charges. I am going to walk you through the process, so let's get started.

If you believe you have been a victim of a crime, it is important to report the incident to the police, as they can provide important information that you may need. The police may investigate, make an arrest, or apply for charges. Frequently, however, the police will refer you to the District Court Commissioner to apply for charges on your own.

Whether it's you or the police who file charges, this is done through a District Court Commissioner. A Commissioner is a judicial officer who has the legal authority to issue charging documents. If you are the one pressing the charges, your first step is to file an Application for Statement of Charges.

Let's pause here. Watch the next video in this two-part series for more information on your rights as a victim. Thank you for watching. I hope this information has been helpful.