

Service for Victims of Crime

The regional offices of the Service for Victims of Crime (RKK) represent a free, low-threshold service to individuals who have experienced crime. Everyone who experiences problems related to criminal activity, including family members or others who are close to a victim, may contact these offices. Our services are available to everyone, regardless of whether the crime has been reported to the police. You are free to contact the offices anonymously, if you prefer.

The regional offices of the Service for Victims of Crime are found in 14 Norwegian cities, spread out all across the country. Our advisors have sound and varied professional backgrounds, as well as a wide range of experiences to draw on. For ten years this service was operated as a research project, but as of January 1, 2007 the service was made permanent. The service is government funded, and the criminal injuries compensation authority in Vardø is administratively and professionally responsible for its operation.

The Service for Victims of Crime can provide:

- Support, advice, and guidance
- Information on your rights, and assistance in contacting the regular support system, if necessary
- Information on procedures in reporting a crime to the police, advice and guidance in claims for compensation
- Assistance in claiming criminal injuries compensation from the state
- Information on the formal procedures in criminal prosecution, and assistance to witnesses who are going to testify in court.

The Service for Victims of Crime shall serve as a safe point of reference for and offer compassion, support, and assistance to victims of crime.

The Service for Victims of Crime (RKK) exists to help people who have experienced violence or other types of crime. We also provide help and assistance to people who will be testifying in court.

Everything you tell us will be confidential, and we are here to help you with YOUR needs.

The Service for Victims of Crime (RKK) is intended to be a supplement to public agencies and the regular support system, and it is politically and religiously independent. The service is free of charge to all users and is government funded.

Who can we help?

The service was originally intended to help those who have been victims of crime, but others may also be affected by criminal activities without necessarily being the victim of it. The service thus also works to help family, friends, colleagues, and relatives of victims of crime.

RKK's services are available to all, regardless of whether the crime has been reported to the police.

Witnesses called to testify, both in criminal cases and in civil cases, may seek practical help and

support from the regional offices of the service.

You may of course contact us anonymously. We will not contact other agencies or parties in the case without your consent.

What can we do to help?

Having been exposed to violence or other types of crime can often reduce the quality of life, sense of security, and sense of justice in a person. If you are having a hard time and need someone to talk to about what has happened to you or someone you love, you can contact the Service for Victims of Crime.

RKK shall serve as a safe point of reference for and offer compassion, support, and assistance to people who find themselves in a difficult situation.

RKK can offer advice, guidance, and practical help. We can provide information and help in contacting the regular support system, police, and the courts. We can also provide information on the process of a criminal case, from police report to conviction.

We can provide information on the rights you have as a victim of crime, and we can also help you prepare claims for criminal injuries compensation and ex gratia payment of compensation.

Are you going to testify in court?

Many people dread having to testify in court, particularly if it is the first time, or if the case is very personal for the individual testifying. When you are subpoenaed (summonsed to testify) you will be informed of your rights, but many feel they have a need for additional information, and some also need someone there to support them during the trial.

If you are subpoenaed as a witness in a trial, you can contact the RKK, as we provide help and support to witnesses before, during, and after the trial. We can help you in a variety of different ways, all according to your wishes and needs. First, we can inform you about how a trial works, and what is required of you as a witness. If possible, we can also come with you to the courthouse and be there with you throughout the trial.

If you need to contact the Service for Victims of Crime, call 815 20 077.