

APPENDIX 7



Provincial Agencies & Organizations

PROVINCIAL AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Listed in alphabetical order

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

1-800-372-7463

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) is an independent agency that awards compensation to victims of violent crime that resulted in personal injury or death as defined by the Compensation for Victims of Crime Act. Compensation may be awarded in those instances when a Criminal Code offence has been committed; however, conviction in relation to said offence is not required for application to the Board.

Victims of partner abuse, or their surviving family members, may make an application for compensation in relation to the variety of expenses including:

- medical expenses resulting from injury or death
- counselling expenses
- loss of wages as a consequence of total or partial disability affecting the victim's capacity to work
- pain and suffering
- funeral expenses
- and financial loss to dependents of a deceased victim.

Applications must be made within two (2) years of the crime and in accordance with standardized procedures developed by CICB; victims may apply for an extension in those instances when more than two (2) years have elapsed since the crime occurred. Victims may be required to attend a formal hearing to present their application; victims of partner abuse are encouraged to attend the hearing if possible as this provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the impact of the abuse on their lives. While not as formal as court proceedings, Board hearings follow a standardized "court-like" format. Victims are entitled to bring a designated support person to their application hearing and to arrange for written or verbal submissions to be made by professionals or service providers who have information relevant to expenses incurred by the victim. For example, it may be helpful and appropriate for a counsellor to make a presentation regarding the negative impacts experienced by the victim as a result of the abuse she has suffered.

Area service providers, such as the Victim/Witness Assistance Program, will ensure that victims of partner abuse are aware of their right to make an application to the CICB.

Ontario Parole & Earned Release Board

705-324-4184

The Ontario Parole & Earned Release Board has legislated authority to grant supervised conditional release to adult offenders sentenced to serve less than two years in Ontario provincial correctional institutions. Its primary goal is to protect the public by releasing only those offenders considered to be a manageable risk.

Victims of partner abuse have the right to receive updates regarding parole hearing dates, decision to release on parole or deny parole, temporary absences, changes to scheduled release date, re-admission to a provincial institution, transfer to another jurisdiction, and/or escapes or failure to return from leave in relation to their offender. This information can be obtained through the Victim Notification System (VNS), a service available through the Victim Support Line (see below).

Victims of partner abuse also have the right to speak with Board members directly regarding specific concerns and to make a written application to attend hearings. Board Case Officers will provide victims with application forms, information, support, and assistance to facilitate their attendance and participation at the hearing; monies are available to cover transportation and/or accommodation costs for victims. Victims approved to attend hearings are entitled to make a verbal statement to the Board; victims may choose to make their statement in the presence of their offender or alternately, they may request that the offender be removed from the hearing prior to their presentation. Under some circumstances, arrangements may be made for victims to meet with the Board off-site to make a statement; for example, when a victim is particularly vulnerable. Board Case Officers offer victims assistance and guidance in the preparation of their statement in order to ensure it meets the needs of the Board. Specific protocols and procedures developed by the Ontario Parole & Earned Release Board provide additional detailed information relating to victims' rights and participation at hearings.

The Victim Support Line (VSL)

1-888-579-2888

The Victim Support Line is a province wide toll-free information line providing a variety of services to victims of crime as outlined below.

VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The VNS keeps victims informed about the status and scheduled release date of provincially sentenced offenders. Victims may either leave a message, name and telephone number, and they will be contacted within one business day by staff from the Ministry of Public Safety and Security and given available information about the present status of their offender; or alternately, victims may register with the VNS, in which case they will receive an automated voice message by phone any time there is a change in status of their offender.

Information available through the VNS includes: parole eligibility and hearing dates; decision to release on parole or deny parole; temporary absences; terms and conditions of the probation order, conditional sentence order, parole certificate, or Temporary Absence Program agreement; changes to scheduled release date; whether parole has been suspended, terminated, revoked, or continued; re-admission to a provincial institution; transfer to another jurisdiction; final warrant expiry date; the general geographic area of release; and/or escapes or failure to return from leave. In those instances when the offender is under a form of community supervision, the victim will be given the name and phone number of the supervising Probation & Parole Officer.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES REFERRALS

Offers victims referrals to appropriate counselling and community support services.

INFORMATION ON THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Provides access to recorded information on how the Criminal Justice System works. This service lets victims review information at their own pace and may help victims familiarize themselves with the Justice system. It may be especially useful in those instances when a victim has urgent questions about the Justice system and is unable to speak directly with an appropriate community service provider, such as a V/WAP staff member.

National Parole Board

613-634-3587

The National Parole Board (NPB) is an agency within the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada. The Board is an independent administrative tribunal that has exclusive authority under the Corrections and Conditional Release Act to grant, deny, cancel, terminate or revoke day parole and full parole for offenders sentenced to two or more years. The NPB also has the authority to: order detention during the period of statutory release which means the offender in question will be held in prison until the end of his sentence; and to grant, deny, and revoke formal pardons.

Victims of partner abuse must submit written requests to obtain information from the NPB about their offender; the NPB has developed a specific Information Request Form for this purpose. Following submission of the Request Form, victims may request information through the **Victim Information Services (1-800-518-8817)** about the starting date and length of sentence, the eligibility and review dates for various forms of conditional release, the date on which the offender is to be released, the date of any hearing or review, and information about any conditions imposed on the offender by the Board in any release.

Victims of partner abuse also have the right to provide information to the NPB. Victims may send copies of their written Victim Information Services to the Board; in addition, they may submit written updates to their Statement prior to any scheduled release hearings. Any such information will be shared with the offender with the exception of personal information which may compromise the safety of the victim, such as her address and telephone number.

Victims of partner abuse can apply to attend and speak at NPB hearings at their own expense; alternately, they may apply to submit an audio or video statement to the Board prior to a specific hearing date. An application can also be made for a support person to accompany the victim as an “observer.” Any such requests must be submitted in writing using the appropriate application forms developed by the Board. The Board has clear procedural guidelines relating to the presentation of statements and information at hearings; victims may request copies of Fact Sheets relating to these guidelines by contacting the Ontario Regional Office of the National Parole Board located in Kingston, Ontario. NPB staff will provide victims with assistance in making applications to attend or speak at hearings and/or in preparing written statements for submission to the Board.