

## **4.1 Justice Services**

### **4.1(a) Ministry of the Attorney General - Crown Attorney**

The Crown Attorney's office prosecutes Criminal Code charges on behalf of the public. The Crown does not act on behalf of victims of crime or provide legal representation to individual victims of sexual or domestic assault. The Crown Attorney controls the prosecution, and does not require the victim's permission or approval on how to proceed. The Crown Attorney will consider the concerns and circumstances of the victim, and will make themselves reasonably available to victims for consultation, information sharing and to prepare the victim for trial. The Crown Attorney will meet victims to gather input on the case and on sentencing, and inform a victim about their right to complete a victim impact statement.

The Crown Attorney's office works independently of, but in cooperation with the police services in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties and prosecute a criminal case where the police have laid charges in accordance with policies set out in the Crown Policy Manual. The Crown Attorney's office becomes involved in the case once the accused is before the court, including making decisions in relation to bail hearings where an accused has been held for a bail hearing by the police, resolution of the case, and sentencing.

A specific Crown Attorney will be assigned to complex sexual assault cases and best efforts will be made to have that Crown remain with the case until its final disposition. In conjunction with VWAP, the Crown will ensure that victims are advised in a timely fashion of significant steps or developments in the prosecution of the case.

Victims may request to meet with the Crown at any stage of the prosecution, together with VWAP and/or the investigator. The Crown is available to meet with victims who wish to do so shortly after the charge has been laid, to prepare for trial and will make reasonable efforts to accommodate other requests for meetings. The Crown will consider testimonial aids (i.e. closed circuit TV) and advise victims about same where permitted by law and will seek to use those aids when a victim expresses a wish to use them. In conjunction with VWAP, the Crown will also advise the victim about any privacy concerns in relation to any third party records application and where appropriate, and in making arrangements for payment for that counsel in accordance with established protocols. At the sentencing stage, the Crown will present any victim impact statement to the court. The Crown will also consider the victim's safety concerns, personal circumstances, and needs and desires for contact or no contact orders when preparing for sentencing. Where appropriate or warranted the Crown will make submissions to the court as to weapons prohibition/forfeiture; sex offender registries and DNA data banking. The Crown will ensure that the victim is kept apprised of any appeals.

In conjunction with court services, the Crown will assist in accommodating any accessibility needs of a victim or witness.

The Crown's office will maintain dialogue with community agencies to build mutual understanding and exchange relevant information as it relates to victims of sexual and domestic assault and community safety. Complaints or concerns regarding the quality or nature of services can be submitted to the Crown Attorney, or if the victim or witness remains unsatisfied, with the Regional Director of Crown Attorneys for the East Region.

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