



Identifying that a child or young person is a victim of crime

Under the [Victims Rights and Support Act 2013](#), out-of-home care casework practitioners must identify and respond to the needs of children and young people who have been victims of crime.

A victim of crime is anyone who suffers harm because of a criminal act. Harm includes having property taken, destroyed or damaged, and actual physical or psychological harm. If a child or young person has died because of a crime, their immediate family members are also considered victims of crime.

Identifying and responding to children and young people who have experienced crime acknowledges that they are particularly vulnerable because of the trauma they have suffered from the crime committed against them. It is critical to link these children and young people in with services to give them every opportunity to recover.

All victims of crime must be treated in accordance with the [Charter of Victims Rights](#).

Victims Support Scheme

Children and young people who have experienced crime may be eligible for counselling, payment for immediate needs, financial assistance or a recognition payment under the Victims Support Scheme.

The Victims Access Line (1800 019 123), Aboriginal Contact Line (1800 019 123) or NSW Department of Justice [Victims Services website](#) all provide information on available services and how to apply.

OOHC casework practitioner's role

OOHC casework practitioners must make an application to Victims Services on behalf of the child or young person who has experienced crime using their online [application form](#).

It is also important to refer all young people in statutory OOHC for a Legal Audit at age 15, or as soon as possible, if they are older than 15 years, and have not yet had a Legal Audit, to check on any legal matters that may affect them when they leave care.

Non-government OOHC agencies can also consult with their local FACS Child and Family District Unit (CFDU) about submitting an application to Victims Services and/or referring for a Legal Audit.

FACS casework practitioners can refer to the *Supporting victims of crime* mandate and NGO casework practitioners can refer to the [Victims Support for OOHC Service Providers Guidelines](#) for details on how to apply to Victims Services or for a legal audit.

Fee waiver letter

Victims Services review each application, advise the outcome and send the Acceptance of Payment to be filled and returned. Victims Services will then notify NSW Trustee and Guardian who will send a declaration form. Complete and return the declaration form, along with the [fee waiver letter](#). This letter asks NSW Trustee and Guardian, who administers payments to children or young people who are victims of crime, to waive any fees related to the management of any compensation payments awarded.