

Common questions about the letter you have received



Government
of South Australia

Commissioner for
Victims' Rights



Why did I receive this letter?

When police start a prosecution, a letter is automatically generated and addressed to the victim of the crime. Victims have the right to know if someone is being prosecuted and the letter contains the information necessary to track progress of the case.

Why did I receive the letter after the first court date?

Sometimes, for different reasons, victims may not receive the letter before the court date. If you receive the letter after the court date you can still use the information to track the progress of the case.

Will I receive automatic updates about my case?

You will not receive automatic updates. You can ask the investigating officer, victim contact officer, prosecutor or witness assistance officer for updates.

The letter contains four important pieces of information.

1. Police reference number (top right corner)

Police use this to keep track of all information about the case. You should quote it when communicating with the police.

2. Accused person's name

As a victim of crime, you are entitled to know the name of any person charged with committing an

offence against you. If that person is under 18, you are only entitled to their initials. You can (in writing) ask the Commissioner of Police for the full name.

3. Details for first court hearing

You do not need to go to the court unless you have been asked to attend, or you've received a subpoena. The courts are generally open to the public and there may be many court dates before the case is finished. There are also some situations in which you would not be allowed to sit in court. One is when you are going to give evidence later in the case. Another is if the judge or magistrate has made an order closing the court.

Check with the prosecutor before making the trip to court.

4. Right to make a Victim Impact Statement (VIS)

You should ask the police investigator for a VIS form. The statement is used to record how the crime has affected you. For more information on Victim Impact Statements go to www.voc.sa.gov.au

Where can I find out more about the progress of the investigation?

You should try to speak with the police investigator. If the investigator is not available then you should speak with a Police Victim Contact Officer or Victim Liaison Officer.

A Victim Contact Officer is available (Monday - Friday) at the following police stations and specialist branches for police investigations:

Barossa	8522 0447
Ceduna - Eyre and Western	8626 2020
Eastern District	7322 4917
Far-North	8648 5020
Hills/Fleurieu	8398 1711
Limestone Coast	8735 1159
Murray Mallee	8535 6023
Major Crash Investigation (Fatal and serious road crashes)	8207 6525
Major Crime (Homicide)	8172 5439 or 8172 5344
Mount Gambier	8735 1051
Northern District	8207 9358 or 8207 9471
Port Lincoln - Eyre and Western	8688 3020
Southern District	8392 9013
Western District	8207 6421 or 8444 3065
Whyalla - Eyre and Western	8648 8020
Yorke Mid-North	8638 4000

Contact information for other police stations can be found in the White Pages or on the SA Police website at www.sapolice.sa.gov.au

Where can I find out about the prosecution?

Once someone is charged, the case goes to either a police prosecutor or a prosecutor from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, depending on the charge. If you have any questions, you should try to speak with the police investigator. If the investigator is not available you may contact the prosecutor.

South Australia **Police Prosecution Units** are located at:

Adelaide	7322 3904
Barossa	8568 6612
Berri	8595 2004
Christies Beach	8392 9116
Ceduna	8626 2020
Elizabeth	8207 9416
Kadina	8828 1116
Mount Barker	8398 1787

Mount Gambier	8735 1043
Murray Bridge	8535 6026
Port Adelaide	8207 6440
Port Augusta	8648 5051
Port Lincoln	8688 3033
Port Pirie	8638 4032
Whyalla	8648 8012

If the Director of Public Prosecutions is prosecuting the case, a Witness Assistance Officer may have been assigned.

Phone: (08) 8207 1529

Email: dpp@agd.sa.gov.au

Where can I find out about the court proceedings?

Information about court processes and details about victims and witnesses

Courts Administration Authority

www.courts.sa.gov.au/GoingtoCourt

Progress of the case and the result

Magistrates Courts Helpline

Phone: (08) 8204 2444

Copy of the Record of the Court Outcome (after the case is finalised)

Commissioner for Victims' Rights

Phone: (08) 8204 9635

Email: victimsofcrime@sa.gov.au

(Include name of defendant, police reference number and court details)

General enquires for the District Court and Supreme Court

Phone: (08) 8204 0289

Victims of domestic abuse

If you are experiencing domestic abuse and the perpetrator has been charged you may still be at risk. You might apply for an Intervention Order for your safety. The Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Gateway can assist you.

Phone: 1800 800 098