

Leaflet about the federal law on assistance to victims of crimes of violence

This leaflet is to inform women who have suffered physical and/or mental violence caused by their husband, partner or ex-partner.

General rights

- As concerned woman you may choose by which cantonal counselling service for victims you want to be assisted. You may claim judicial, social and psychological consultancy.
- The services of the counselling are free of cost. The counsellors are bound to keep the secret. The claims for assistance are independent of a charge.
- Depending on the financial situation, cost contributions for **third party assistance services** may be paid (e. g. cost for therapies, for shelters, etc.).
- Under certain conditions, an application may be made within five years since the last act for a financial **indemnification** (e. g. loss of earnings) and **moral compensation**. This time limit is valid for offences committed after the 1st January 2007.

In case of a criminal procedure you are entitled to:

- be accompanied by a person of your confidence at the police and the enquiring instances
- claim that the interrogations take place in the absence of the offender
- refuse statements on matters that concern your intimacy
- claim to be informed about important decisions, e. g. release from custody, annulment of a contact ban, etc.

If you have suffered of sexual violence, you are in addition entitled to claim:

- that as well the interrogation as well a possible translation of the interrogation at the police force or the inquiry authority be made by a woman
- not to be directly confronted to the offender during the whole criminal procedure
- the exclusion of the public access to the court meetings



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