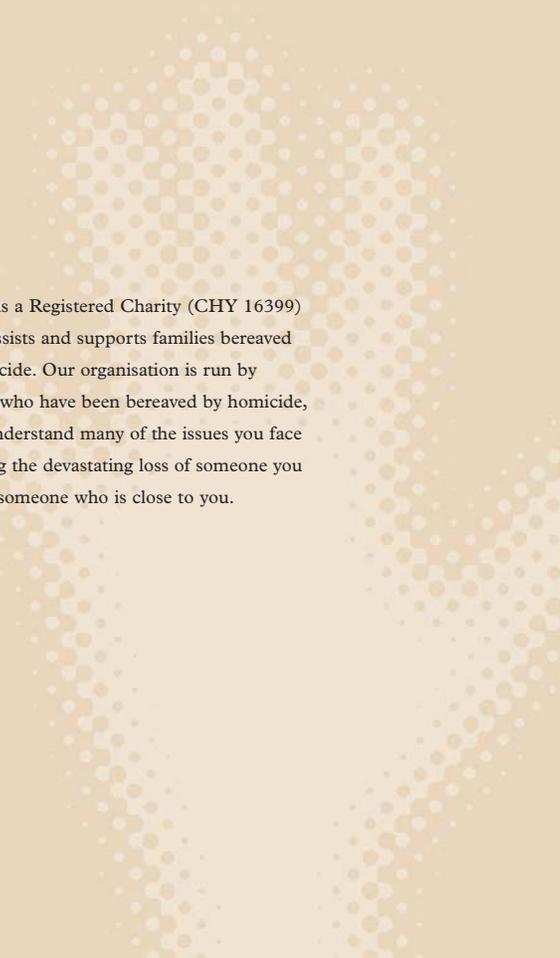




A HELPFUL
DIRECTORY OF
INFORMATION
FOR PEOPLE
BEREAVED BY
HOMICIDE

Advice, Entitlements and Services





AdVIC

AdVIC is a Registered Charity (CHY 16399) which assists and supports families bereaved by homicide. Our organisation is run by families who have been bereaved by homicide, so we understand many of the issues you face following the devastating loss of someone you love, or someone who is close to you.

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Why you received this booklet.

Information, advice and contacts

The aftermath of a homicide is a time of immense trauma, confusion and heightened activity. Apart from dealing with the unbearable pain of loss and the arrangements for the funeral, so many other unexpected pressures come flooding into your life. You suddenly find yourself immersed in the unfamiliar, and often difficult, world of the Criminal Justice System – the Gardaí, the investigation, the court dates and so on.

Though families are actually at the centre of all this, many describe their experience as being on the outside. They feel excluded, often not kept informed, but are expected to understand and participate when called upon. It is a very daunting task to seek out and grasp the vital information you need to help you cope and to understand what's going on.

In this intense environment, many families are not well informed about their rights. Many of us do not understand how to negotiate the complicated layers of the Criminal Justice System. That is why we set up AdVIC. And that is why we produced this information booklet. In these pages you will find most of the important information, advice and contacts you will need:

- It explains who we are and what we do.
- It informs you of your rights and entitlements.
- It talks about the challenges people face in the aftermath of homicide.



- It summarises the role of each agency in the Criminal Justice System.
- It offers advice on dealing with the media.
- It provides contact information for each of these agencies.
- It outlines the voluntary support services available.

AdVIC - who we are & what we do.

Founded in 2005, AdVIC is a national, non-profit, charitable, partly government-funded organisation run by – and on behalf of – families bereaved by homicide.

We are a totally independent organisation - Advocates (Ad) who campaign for greater rights for Victims (VIC) of homicide, their families and friends. We bring together families bereaved by homicide including those affected by murder, manslaughter and fatal assault. (The word 'homicide' is a legal term that describes murder, manslaughter or any unlawful killing).

We formed to ensure that the rights of families of homicide victims are not ignored within the Criminal Justice System and to bring about a fairer, more balanced system for such families. We also work to achieve improved coordination between the agencies that make up that system.

We are not affiliated with any religious or political organisation, and hold no ideology beyond the right of victims and survivors to be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.



Facing extra challenges after homicide

Nothing can minimise the trauma you go through following a homicide, but our aim is to try to help alleviate at least some of the other difficulties you may encounter by providing clear and straightforward information about the Criminal Justice System.

In fact, there is a lot of information available. However it is not always easy to access. Sometimes, when you do find it, much of it is couched in dense legal language that can be very daunting, especially during a time of great trauma and upset. That is why we have assembled some of the most important information here, and why we have tried to explain it in clear and straightforward language.

Because of our individual and collective experience of bereavement through homicide, we came up against an almost continuous breakdown in communication between the various agencies that make up the Criminal Justice System. This can add greatly to the upset and frustration you feel. We believe that understanding the system and the players within it is a first step to relieving some of that extra stress and upset and in receiving your rights and entitlements.



Your rights and entitlements

In the Victims Charter of 1999, the State has given *“its full commitment to giving victims of crime a central place in the criminal justice system”*.

THE VICTIMS’ CHARTER

We believe your rights are far too limited under this Charter, but it is still important that you are fully aware of them and use them. They are:

- The Gardaí should inform you about the services of support agencies.
- The Gardaí should appoint a named member of the investigation team to liaise with you.
- The Gardaí should keep you informed of all aspects of the investigation.
- The Gardaí should tell you about the inquest date, time and place.
- Post mortem findings may be made known to the family by requesting the report from the coroner dealing with the inquest. (Some coroners will provide this service, some do not, requesting it is the only way to find out. The Gardaí should tell you what coroner is dealing with the homicide)
- When the DPP’s office decides not to prosecute, you have the right to make your views known in writing to this office for consideration
- You should request a pre-trial meeting with a representative



from the Chief Prosecution Solicitor's Office (or local State Solicitor when a trial takes place outside Dublin) and the prosecuting Counsel to discuss the case. It is best for this to take place at least 2 weeks in advance of a trial, and not on the morning of the trial.

- The Court Support Services should offer you support during the trial.
- You can request the Prison Service to notify you in advance of the release of offenders, and you should do this in writing.
- Application for financial compensation should be made to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal.

OTHER ENTITLEMENTS

It's also important for you to know that although the following services are not included in the Victims Charter, they are available to families of homicide victims:

- Availability of Victim Room in the Four Courts for the duration of the trial.
- Reserved seating for families of homicide victims at the trial. Outside of the High Court a request for reserved seating should be made to the County Registrar before the beginning of the trial.
- Victim Impact Statement after conviction. This is granted at the discretion of the Judge (even in the case of a murder conviction you should always request it).
- You can send a submission to the Parole Board (see page 18 for role of the Parole Board) which will be added to



the file of the offender when his or her parole is being considered. However, you should be aware that this submission may be available to the offender at the end of his sentence.



Key roles and public services

When homicide takes the life of a loved one or friend, it inevitably means contact, and often intense involvement, with the Criminal Justice System and other agencies. There are many key organisations and agencies within this system and your circumstances might mean that you have to engage with a number of these agencies for the first time in your life. This experience can be positive, but too often it is confusing, frustrating and sometimes traumatic. You have rights and entitlements and it is important to know and understand the system in order to get the best out of it. Here we list and summarise the role of some of the major organisations and services in the system.

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

The first contact you might have with the Criminal Justice System could be when members of An Garda Síochána have to give you the tragic news about the homicide. In 2006, An Garda Síochána introduced specific homicide training for all members of the force. Families of homicide victims and volunteers working with them were involved in developing this training. In October 2006, they also introduced a Garda Charter for Victims of Crime (this can be downloaded from www.garda.ie).

According to this charter, the Gardai should:

- Tell you the name, telephone number and station of the investigating Garda;



- Outline the procedure to you and ensure that you are kept informed of the progress, including whether a suspect is charged or cautioned;
- Tell you about the services available for Victims of Crime;
- Tell you when a suspect is charged and should inform you of the following:
 - *Whether the accused is in custody or on bail and the conditions attached to the bail*
 - *The time, date and location of the Court hearing of the charges against the accused*
 - *The prosecution process involved and, if you are likely to be called as a witness, the help available through the Crime Victims' Helpline*
 - *The circumstances where a judge may ask you for a Victim Impact Statement and arrange for its completion*
 - *Your entitlement to court expenses*
 - *The final outcome of the criminal trial*

Following a homicide, the Gardai will contact you in writing outlining the name of the investigating Garda station contact details and the Garda Pulse Incident Number. This number is to be used in all your communication with the Gardai and can be used at any Garda station to get an update on the investigation. You will also receive with this letter, contact details for all the victim help agencies available within Ireland. When a suspect has been charged with the homicide, you will receive a second letter outlining this development in the investigation and giving you once more the details contained in the first letter.



If for any reason you are not fully satisfied, or have any enquiries on any aspect of your treatment by members of An Garda Síochána, you may contact:

The Victim Liaison Officer,
Community Relations Section,
Garda Síochána, Harcourt Square, Dublin 2.
Telephone 01-666 3802, Email: crimprev@iol.ie

Under the Garda Charter for Victims of Crime, a reply will be issued within 21 days. Alternatively, you should contact your local Superintendent.

CORONER'S COURT

An inquest must be held, by law, whenever a person's death is due to unnatural causes. An inquest is a public inquiry carried out by the Coroner.

The Coroner has sole power to decide which witnesses should attend the inquest. Any person who has a proper interest in the inquiry (and the family of the deceased would be the most obvious) may personally examine a witness, or employ a solicitor to represent them.

As the victim's family, you can also request to speak to the State Pathologist, prior to or during the inquest.

It is imperative that you write to the Coroner's Office to let them know if you want to attend the inquest. This is to ensure that the



family is correctly informed of the time and date of the inquest.

An inquest may be opened prior to the criminal trial, but will be adjourned until completion of the trial, as the Coroner will not be in a position to return a verdict at this point. Following the Criminal Trial, the inquest will be concluded. You should contact the Coroner's office again, after the trial, to ensure you are correctly informed of the time and date of the conclusion of the inquest.

Some coroners will also provide the family with the findings of the post mortem examination, if requested.

An interim Death Certificate can be issued once the inquest has been adjourned, but a final Death Certificate will not be issued until the inquest has been concluded.

More detailed information may be obtained from:

Dublin City Coroner's Court,
Store Street, Dublin 1.

Tel: 01-8746684, 01-8743006

Fax 01-8742840

Email: coroners@dublincorp.ie

Website:www.coronerdublincity.ie



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS (DPP)

On behalf of the State, it is the responsibility of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to initiate legal proceedings (initiate a prosecution) following the homicide. Most families have huge concerns regarding what to expect during the trial and, therefore, a pre-trial meeting with the prosecution team may be of enormous benefit to you and your family. To avail of this service (strongly recommended), you should in the first instance inform the Senior Investigating Officer dealing with the case. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of this you can contact the Office of the DPP directly by phone or write to:

Office of the DPP
Chief Prosecution Solicitor
90 North King Street
Smithfield, Dublin 7
Tel: 01-8588500
Fax: 01-8588555

Cases heard in Dublin are dealt with by the Chief Prosecution Solicitor. In the case of manslaughter being prosecuted outside of Dublin you will need to contact the local State Solicitor.

A full list with contact details is available on www.dppireland.ie under contact us/local state solicitors or by ringing 01-8588500.

The request should be made about 4 weeks prior to the trial date. Avoid scheduling the meeting for the morning of the trial.



For queries of a general nature you may write to the DPP:
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions,
14-16 Merrion Street,
Dublin 2.
Tel: 01-6789222

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM

This Department is responsible for a number of divisions that make up the Criminal Justice System. These are

- Crime 1 Division
- Criminal Law Reform Division
- Courts Policy Division
- Freedom of Information, and
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal.

Detailed information on the Department of Justice can be found on: www.justice.ie

Communication with the Department of Justice should be sent to:

Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform,
72/76 St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-602 8202.

Fax: 01-661 5461.

Lo-call: 1890 221 227



Any communication with the Minister for Justice should be sent to:

Office for the Minister of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
94 St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2.

Telephone 01-6028202

Fax 01-6615461

Email minister@justice.ie

Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal

Following a homicide, the family of the victim is entitled to claim compensation. This is handled by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal.

The first step is to request an application form from The Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal (see contact details below). This should be done as early as possible following a homicide as it may take a considerable time before any claim is completed. You will be compensated for funeral expenses, as well as loss of earning potential for dependants of the victim. You will be asked to submit receipts and proof of earnings with your application.

You may require help to fill out this form and you can request this from the Citizens Information Service (info on page 17). Remember, if you enlist the help of a solicitor to do this, it will be at your own expense, as the Tribunal will not cover your legal expenses.



Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal,
13 Lower Hatch Street,
Dublin 2.
Telephone: 01-6610604.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL COMMUNITY AND FAMILY AFFAIRS

This Department is responsible for the following resources and services that may be of help to you following the homicide:

- **A free booklet ‘Information For Those Affected By Bereavement’** produced jointly by the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs and Comhairle, provides useful information on dealing with the practical and material matters that arise following a death. It is available from your local Welfare office, or from your nearest Citizen Information Centre.
- **Financial Assistance Following a Bereavement**
Once-off payments may be available to help families following the difficult time in the aftermath of a homicide. Contact your Social Welfare Office for eligibility.
- **Applying for a Bereavement Grant**
The Bereavement Grant is a once-off payment made in respect of deaths. The BG1 Form can be obtained from your local Social Welfare Office or can be downloaded at:



www.oasis.gov.ie/death/benefitsandentitlements/bereavementgrant.html

- **Applying for a Death Certificate**

In due course, to obtain a Death Certificate, you must complete an Application for Death Certificate form. This form can be obtained at your local health board office or downloaded from: www.oasis.gov.ie/death/afteradeath/deathcert.html

Send completed form with €6.98 to:

The General Register Office,
Joyce House,
8/11 Lombard Street East,
Dublin 2.

However, as it may take some time for even an interim Death Certificate to be available, you will be able to deal with the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs by providing a copy of the newspaper notice of the death.

- **Citizens Information Phone Service**

The Citizens Information phone service provides easy access to information and advice by telephone and e-mail. The service has a full range of information on rights and entitlements on State and other social services. In certain circumstances your query may be dealt with by phone, or you may be referred to your local office for further help.

LoCall number: 1890 777 121

Email: information@comhairle.ie



You can also find a wide range of information on the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs on: www.comhairle.ie and www.oasis.gov.ie

THE PAROLE BOARD

The Parole Board's principal function is to advise the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform. The Parole Board reviews the cases of prisoners who are sentenced to between 8 and 14 years once half the sentence has been served. For prisoners sentenced to more than fourteen years, the review occurs after 7 years.

The Parole Board makes recommendation to the Minister of Justice based on the following factors:

- Would the perpetrator's release constitute a threat to the community?
- Is it reasonable to grant early/temporary release in view of the nature and circumstances of the offence committed?
- Does the perpetrator warrant release, having regard to behaviour in custody?
- Are there any compelling or compassionate grounds which merit special consideration?
- Has the perpetrator engaged constructively with the prison-based therapeutic services to combat his/her offending behaviour?

The final decision regarding the recommendations of the Parole board lies with the Minister of Justice.



You can write directly to the Parole Board if you wish to be informed of dates of parole hearings, or if you wish to document to the Board the effect the homicide has had on you and your family. The Board will always consider the view of the family of a homicide victim. However, it is up to you to contact the Parole Board.

It is important to note that this is the only time and way for a family to add their view to the prisoner's file (to be used at time of deciding on Parole). However, you should know that the prisoner may be made aware of your views.

Submissions are to be sent to:

Parole Board,
31-35 Bow Street,
Dublin 7.
Tel: 01-8720280

PRISON SERVICE

As the victim's family, you are entitled to be informed by the Prison Service prior to the perpetrator's release from prison, whether on temporary release or at the end of his/her sentence. As well as information on the release of the perpetrator, the Prison Service may provide you with additional information, including temporary releases, parole board hearings, court appearances, prison transfers, etc.

In order to exercise this right, we would advise you to contact



the Prison Service shortly after the trial end at the following address:

Dolores Courtney
Victim Liaison Officer
Irish Prison Service Headquarters
IDA Business Park
Ballinalee Road
Longford
Direct Phone: (043) 35158
Fax: (043) 35107
vlo@irishprisons.ie



Dealing with the media

In the aftermath of a homicide, a family or individual can suddenly be thrust into the media limelight. This can be very distressing for most families who up until that point probably led very private lives. Demands from the media for comment or interviews can be intrusive and can cause extra stress. However, some people who have been bereaved by homicide may want to utilise the media to help further the investigation or to obtain justice. In these cases, if you are inexperienced in dealing with the media, it is wise to get the support and advice of someone who is used to dealing with the world of press, radio and TV, or look to your legal representative to help you handle this. Do not approach the media unprepared.

Remember, reports of the death of a loved one by homicide will most probably be reported on TV, radio and in most newspapers. Often, reports are inaccurate or even sensationalised, and this can cause increased distress at a time when you are already much traumatised.

The National Union of Journalists has a Code of Conduct that all members must adhere to. This code states that ‘journalists shall obtain information, photographs and illustrations only by straightforward means’ and ‘a journalist shall do nothing which entails intrusion into anybody’s private life, grief or distress, subject to justification by overriding considerations of the public interest’. If you feel that either of these codes has been



breached, complain in writing to:

June McManus,
National Union of Journalists,
Spencer House,
Spencer Row, off Store Street,
Dublin 1.
Phone 01-8170340/8170341
e-mail: liberty.hall@nuj.ie

Information on national and local media can be obtained on our
Website www.advic.ie (under the Resources (Media) section)



Homicides abroad

When the homicide of an Irish citizen takes place abroad, at some stage the family of the homicide victim will be dealing with the Department of Foreign Affairs. They can be contacted at:

Department of Foreign Affairs,
80 St Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2.
Phone: 00 353 1 4780822
Website: www.dfa.ie

You will need to contact the 'Consular Services' section. It can be accessed as follows:

In Ireland

Consular Section,
Department of Foreign Affairs,
69-71 St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2.
Telephone: 00 353 1 408 2302

Abroad

You will need to contact the Irish Embassy (Irish Diplomatic or Consular Mission) in the country concerned. This information can be obtained by ringing the Department of Foreign Affairs/ Consular Section at the numbers above or by consulting the full list on: www.dfa.ie/embassies/



Bereavement and Counselling Services

When family, friends and those closest to you are unable or unavailable to help with the enormity of the aftermath of a homicide, bereavement counselling may be very beneficial. The following services are all involved in counselling and can provide you with the details of the counselling service nearest to you.

1. Irish Association of Counselling & Psychotherapy

8 Cumberland Street, Dun Laoghaire,
Co Dublin.
Phone 01-2300061, Fax 01-2300064
Email: www.irish-counselling.ie

2. Bereavement Counselling Services

Dublin Street, Baldoyle,
Dublin 13.
Tel. 01-839 1766
E-mail: bereavement@eircom.net
Web site: www.bereavementireland.org

3. Barnados (Solas is Barnardos' counselling service for children who have lost someone close to them, for example, a parent or a sibling).

Barnados, Christchurch Square, Dublin 8.
Tel: 01-4530355. Fax: 01-4530300
Email : solas@barnardos.ie
Contact details for Solas centres can also be found at:
www.barnardos.ie



4. **Family Resources Centres**

Over 80 Family Resources Centres are located nationwide. Many provide counselling services. Visit their website where you will be able to locate the service nearest you using the map centres tool on www.frcnf.com

5. **Volunteer Victim Support Groups.**

A number of volunteer groups are funded by the State to support victims of crime. After a homicide the following groups may be very helpful to family and friends of homicide victims:

1. ***For information, emotional support and referral to other services:***

Crime Victims helpline: Contact: 1850211407,
www.crimevictimshelpline.ie,
email: info@crimevictimshelpline.ie

2. ***For emotional support from trained volunteers***
SAH (Support after Homicide)

Contact: 087-9837322,
email: supportafterhomicide@hotmail.com

3. ***For emotional and practical support during the trial from trained volunteers***

Court Support Services: contact 01-8726785,
email: courtsupport@eircom.net

If the homicide takes place in the UK:

Victim Support Line: Contact 00 44 845 3030900,
www.victimsupport.org.uk

SAMM (Support after Murder & Manslaughter):
Contact: 00 44 207 7353838, www.samm.org.uk



AdVIC - what we offer

- Clear information on all of the agencies within the Criminal Justice System, including information on your rights.
- Information on the media, including contact information for the NUJ and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission. This can be important should you have a complaint in relation to either print or broadcast media coverage of your situation.
- Comprehensive contact information on the various support agencies available to you following the homicide
- A comprehensive list of contact details for each of the agencies within the Criminal Justice System is available on our website www.advic.ie or by contacting AdVIC on 086 1272156 or PO Box 10106, Swords, Co Dublin or info@advic.ie
- We are continuously lobbying for changes in the Criminal Justice System, including highlighting imbalances as they arise.
- We hold Open Days for families, where we present our programmes of work and updates on progress achieved. It is also a supportive forum where families can share their experiences, ideas and needs.



Since 2007 ADVIC runs a Subsidised Counselling service for families and friends of homicide victims

A group of professional counsellors successfully completed a series of dedicated workshops organised by AdVIC in facilitation skills for families of homicide victims.

A similar series of workshops are been run in 2009, which will double the number of counsellors involved in the service and will achieve a better national geographical coverage.

At present the service is available in the following locations:

*Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
Co. Carlow
Co. Kilkenny
Rathcoole Co. Dublin*

*Rathfarnham, Dublin 14
Templeogue, Dublin 16
Clondalkin, Dunlin 22
Firhouse, Dublin 24*

We refer people bereaved by homicide to one of these counsellors.

We offer 10 counselling sessions(negotiable) at a maximum cost of €25 (negotiable) per session for the bereaved person, AdVIC taking on the remaining cost.

To avail of this service, please contact AdVIC on 0861272156, or info@advic.ie and we will endeavour to organise a referral to one of the trained counsellors as promptly as possible.

Free Legal Advice

The Bar Council Voluntary Assistance Scheme will provide a suitably qualified Barrister to hold a consultation at an early stage in the trial process with the next of kin of a victim of homicide. This consultation will provide information in relation to the criminal trial process and the steps that will occur prior to a trial.

In order to access the scheme, a family, or individual, needing legal advice must contact AdVIC, as we are required to be the link through which all contact is made. It is necessary for AdVIC to obtain as much detail as possible at the outset, so that it can be presented to The Bar Council. The Bar Council will then match a barrister or solicitor to the query and the assistance may be provided by letter, phone or consultation.

If next of kin is resident outside of Dublin, the Bar Council will endeavour to find a suitable qualified barrister in that part of the country.

For more information, and to avail of this free service, families should contact AdVIC who will process the request for consultation.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ORGANISATIONS

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA *State police agency conducting the investigation after a crime and preparing a file for the DPP in order to charge a suspect for the homicide.*

BAIL *The conditional and temporary release of an accused person pending a trial and/or sentencing.*

CHIEF PROSECUTION SOLICITOR *Works for the Office of the DPP, responsible for prosecuting Murder and Manslaughter cases heard in Dublin, and Murder cases heard outside Dublin.*

COUNSELLING *All the issues arising after a homicide can be overwhelming, discussing them with a trained counsellor can help in coping with the trauma, bereavement, loss and grief. It helps a person work through their feelings and helps them to focus and make decisions.*

COURT EXPENSES *Financial help available to families attending homicide trials on request to An Garda Síochána.*

COURT SUPPORT SERVICES *Trained volunteers working within the courts to give emotional and practical support to families and witnesses attending trials.*

CONSULAR SERVICES/EMBASSIES *Section of the Department of Foreign Affairs to be contacted when homicide has taken place abroad.*

CORONER *Independent office holder who inquires into the circumstances of sudden, unexplained, violent and unnatural deaths*

CORONER'S COURT *Court where a Coroner will hold an inquest following a post-mortem result of death from unnatural causes.*

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION TRIBUNAL

Organisation set up by the Department of Justice to assess financial compensation claims for victims of crime (family of the victim in the case of homicide).



DEATH CERTIFICATE *Available from the District Registrar's office once the inquest has been completed (after a trial). An interim death certificate can be issued after adjournment of the inquest, but a final Death Certificate can only be made available on completion of a trial.*

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS *Governmental Department responsible for the Irish Embassies and Consular Services outside of Ireland.*

DPP *On behalf of the State, it is the responsibility of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to initiate legal proceedings (initiate a prosecution) following a homicide.*

GARDA CHARTER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME *Charter introduced in October 2006 by An Garda Síochána to outline the Garda service framework when someone has been the victim of crime or traumatic incident.*

HOMICIDE *A generic catchall term for the killing of a person*

INQUEST *Inquiry conducted in public by a Coroner into the circumstances surrounding a death.*

LOCAL STATE SOLICITOR *Works for the Office of the DPP, responsible for Manslaughter cases heard outside Dublin.*

MANSLAUGHTER *A lesser charge than murder, when the accused's actions were in some way provoked or, without intending the killing, the accused was negligent as to whether death would be the result of his/her actions.*

MINISTER OF JUSTICE *Minister responsible for the many divisions of the Criminal Justice System and for making the final decision regarding the release/repatriation of certain prisoners convicted of homicide.*



MURDER *The unlawful killing of a person where the accused intended to kill or cause serious injury.*

NUJ (NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS) *Body representing journalists in Ireland of all media forms (newspaper, radio and TV).*

PAROLE BOARD *Board set up by the Minister of Justice to review cases of prisoners sentenced to over 8 years and advise Minister when parole is being considered.*

PRE-TRIAL MEETING *Meeting between the prosecution team, the Gardaí and the family of the homicide victim, organised before the trial, to advise the family of the proceedings and help them to understand the process.*

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION *The post-mortem examination (autopsy) is a procedure to establish, or clarify, the cause of death.*

STATE PATHOLOGIST *Doctor who carries out the post-mortem examination and reports its findings at the trial and Coroner's Court.*

SUPPORT AGENCIES *Agencies funded by the Commission for the Victims of Crime, staffed by volunteers to give emotional and practical support to Victims of Crime.*

VICTIMS CHARTER *Charter introduced in 1999 by the State to clarify the levels and standards of treatment victims of crime can expect from the Criminal Justice System.*

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT *Introduced in the 1993 Criminal Justice Act, the Victim Impact Statement gives the opportunity for the family of homicide victims to tell the Court about the impact of the crime on them. Allowed to families of homicide victims at the discretion of the trial Judge.*



VICTIM LIAISON OFFICER OF PRISON SERVICE

Service set up under the provisions of the Victims Charter by the Prison Service to inform, on written request, victims and families of homicide victims of any significant development in the management of the perpetrator's sentence as well as any impending release.





AdVIC 
Advocates for Victims of Homicide

Phone: 086-1272156

Letter: P.O.BOX 10106, Swords, Co Dublin

Email: info@advic.ie

Web: www.advic.ie

AdVIC is a registered Charity (CHY 16399)
AdVIC receives funding from the Commission for the Victims of Crime