

The injured party can only **appeal the decision to award compensation** and cannot appeal the finding as to whether the defendant is guilty or sentencing.

- **Property damage:** compensation for damage to property, loss of income, treatment costs.
- **Health damage:** compensation for pain calculated with regard to the severity of the mental distress or physical injuries sustained.
- **Non-pecuniary damage:** harm to your dignity, your good name, or your honor.

You can file a motion for compensation into the protocol of the case either verbally or in writing at the police station, prosecutor's office, or court that is handling. You must make this claim **at the very latest during the first hearing of the main trial, before the indictment is read.**

In your claim, you describe **how the damage is related to the crime and describe its monetary value**, and during the proceedings you can additionally specify what the cost has been.

If you do not seek compensation for damages during the criminal proceedings, you can do so by **filing a civil lawsuit.**

What is the right to monetary aid?

The state provides monetary aid to make it through the deteriorated social situation associated with the crime. Those entitled to it are:

- Crime victims with **health impacts**,
- Crime victims of a **sexual nature**,
- Minors abused by a trusted person,
- Those whose close family member has died as a consequence of a crime.

You file the monetary aid request with the Compensation Department of the Justice Ministry. You have to file **within two years** from the day when **you learn the consequences** of the crime, and within **five years** at the latest from the date on which **the crime was committed.**

There are no formal requirements for this application, but we recommend using the **form** available on the website of the Justice Ministry.

For more information, contact



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**Basic information about
criminal proceedings**

A criminal proceedings determines who committed a particular crime, and if the perpetrator is convicted, the punishment is decided. Proceedings involve **the Czech Police**, prosecutors, and courts. If you believe you have become the victim of a crime, you can file a **crime report**.

How do I file a crime report?

You can file a report at any police station **verbally or in writing**, describing **what happened, when and where, who perpetrated the crime, who witnessed it, and other evidence** that could prove the incident occurred.

Ask the police to:

- **Conceal your personal information (address, telephone number)** so the perpetrator cannot locate you,
 - **Inform you of the outcome of the proceedings** within 30 days from the date of filing so you can learn what the investigation has discovered.
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What happens next?

Police will begin **verifying** the information in your report. They can **summon you to make a statement** or to submit background information or other evidence. If they assess that what happened was a crime, they will begin an **investigation**. At the close of the investigation the prosecutor will file an indictment against the perpetrator. The court then decides on the perpetrator's guilt and punishment in a **trial**.

If what happened was not a crime, police either shelve the case or send it to the local authority to be adjudicated as a misdemeanor.

How can I find out about what is happening with the proceedings?

You have **the right to see the file** that the police and then the court keep on the case. It contains everything related to the investigation and prosecution of the crime.

You can **make a copy of the file, including by using your own camera**. You must always make an appointment in advance to see it.

What if I want more information?

The police and prosecutor have the **duty to inform you** about your rights and responsibilities during the proceeding. If you want more information about your proceeding, ask them. This information has to **be given to you in a language you speak and understand**.

What should I do if I have evidence?

You have the right to **present evidence** throughout the entire proceeding. Contact the police or prosecutor, or present it at trial.

Can I be represented during the proceeding?

You can choose a **legal representative** who will advocate for your rights.

If you are an especially vulnerable victim (unless you are a victim of bias violence), then you have the right to an attorney or legal representative free of charge. The court has to be asked to appoint such an attorney.

What happens when I give a statement?

The victim, in a criminal proceedings, frequently appears as a **witness**.

When giving your statement, you can choose whether the interrogator will be a man or a woman.

You have the right to testify in your **native language or in another language that you speak well**. The police arrange for interpretation at no cost to you.

You can be **accompanied to the interrogation by your legal representative or a confidant**.

Law enforcement is only allowed to ask you intimate questions if they are essential to clarifying the case.

You have the right to **refuse to testify** if by doing so you could **endanger yourself or a loved one**, or if you are bound by a lawful **confidentiality agreement**.

Will I have to encounter the perpetrator?

You have the right to request **prevention of contact with the perpetrator** at any point throughout the entire criminal proceedings.

You also have the right to be **informed when the perpetrator is released** from custody or from serving a sentence and is again at large.

The court can **forbid the perpetrator from contacting you** by injunction.

I need legal aid or psychological aid

You have the right to receive legal, psychological and social services aid from a registered service provider at no cost to you.

Do I have to go to court?

You must attend court **when summoned**, for the purpose of questioning, but otherwise you do not have to attend. During the trial you have the right to ask questions of the accused and witnesses and to express your views at the close of the trial.

The perpetrator has harmed me.

What can I do about that?

During the criminal proceedings you have the right to **claim compensation for damage to your health, your property, or for non-pecuniary harms** caused by the crime. In its verdict, the court can oblige the perpetrator to pay for the damage caused.