

# Work with the Victim in the Context of Probation and Mediation Activities

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# PMS basic strategic objectives

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- **Integration of the offender** –  
*respect to the right and the life  
without a further violation of law*
  - **Participation of the injured** –  
*indemnity, safety, trust*
  - **Protection of the society** –  
*prevention of further crime  
commitment*
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## Work with a victim

Probation

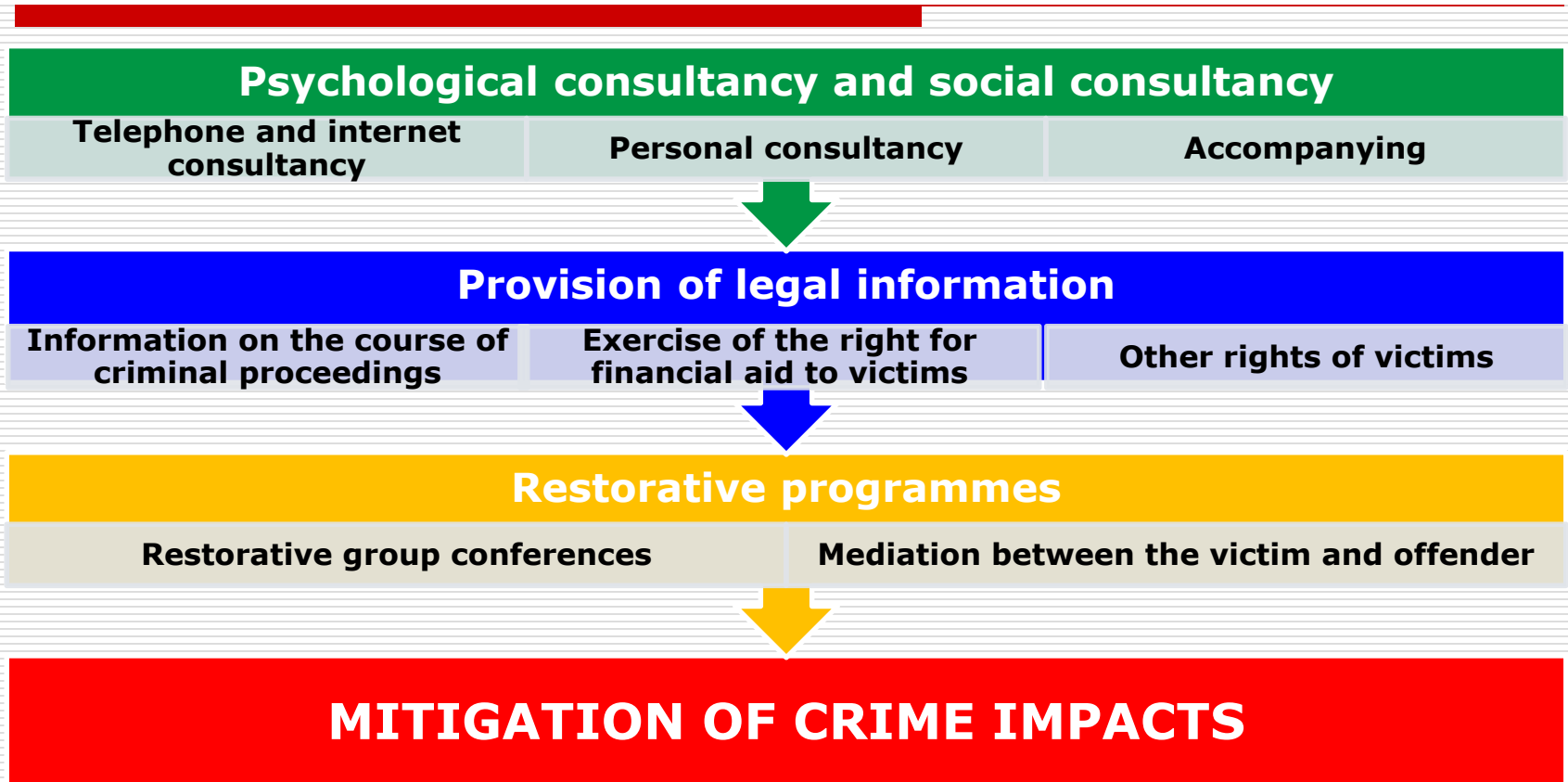
Mediation

Parole

Project activities

Specialised advisory  
centers for victims

# Which services do we provide for victims?



# WORK WITH VICTIMS IN THE PREPARATORY PROCEEDINGS

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- ❑ we provide information on criminal proceedings; on victims' rights pursuant to Act No. 45/2013 Coll. On the Crime Victims
  - ❑ in appropriate cases (a victim himself/herself initialises a contact), we provide information on filing a criminal complaint
  - ❑ we map the impacts of a criminal activity on the victim's life
  - ❑ we provide psychosocial support (active hearing, support, empathy...)
  - ❑ we help to solve indemnification
  - ❑ we help with the preparation of a report on the impacts of a criminal activity on the life and health
  - ❑ we help with the preparation of the requests to the Police of the Czech Republic regarding a possibility of an examination by a person of the same sex
  - ❑ we help with the preparation of the requests to the court regarding a possibility of a separate examination without the accused; and request for a possibility regarding the determination of a free proxy, etc.
  - ❑ we inform on the role of a fiduciary, we offer guidance to examinations
  - ❑ in suitable cases we inform the victim on the institute of Preliminary measures and, where appropriate, we offer assistance in drawing up a suggestion to impose a preliminary measure
  - ❑ in adequate cases we instruct the victim on a possibility to file a request on the submission of the information in the case of the offender's escape or release from the arrest, the performance of imprisonment or assistance to the victim to draw up such a request
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# WORK WITH THE VICTIM IN THE COURT PROCEEDINGS

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## **The participation in the court is the most demanding part of the criminal proceedings for victims**

- we provide information regarding the course of the trial (the trial time line, etc.)
  - we inform of the role of the witness, the injured
  - we prepare, above all, particularly serious victims for the participation in the trial, we recommend the victim e.g. to visit the court prior to a particular proceedings
  - we offer a companion at the court
  - if the victim's health, mental condition requires so and it is feasible with respect to the possibility of the court, upon the victim's request it is appropriate to discuss with a judge an option to ensure a separate victim's examination without the presence of the accused; or, where appropriate, we assist to draw up a request for the examination without the accused's participation
  - we lead the victim to a due and timely registration of his/her claims for compensation of material damage or, where appropriate, non-material damage
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# WORK WITH VICTIMS IN THE ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS

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- ❑ we map the impacts of the crime on the victim's health and life and arrange a contact for further services for them
  - ❑ we support victims at the creation of the Victim Impact Statement
  - ❑ we provide the information regarding indemnity or how to file a lawsuit at the civil court, how to request indemnity by law, in the case of a failure to pay maintenance, how to lodge a new criminal complaint
  - ❑ we offer and perform Victim Offender Mediation
  - ❑ we focus on winning the victim for a long-term cooperation, above all, in the cases of extremely serious crimes
  - ❑ we create with a victim a safety plan in case the offender is conditionally released
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# The practice showed that:

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- ❑ It is necessary to create for victims the conditions for LONG-TERM COOPERATION, if they show interest.
  - ❑ A REPEATED CONTACT OF AN EMPLOYEE with the victim is essential.
  - ❑ THE VICTIMS' EXPERIENCE VARIES IN THE PARTICULAR STAGES OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.
  - ❑ THE VICTIMS MOST OFTEN NEED:
    - LEGAL INFORMATION
    - PSYCHSOCIAL SUPPORT
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# What are our achievements?

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- ❑ The victim has been recognised as the “partner” for the the Law Enforcement Authorities (LEA). The new law on victims helped to equalise its position and enables him/her to be more active in the course of the criminal proceedings.
  - ❑ Financial aid, which is for many victims the only possibility a financial compensation.
  - ❑ Increase the expertise of probation officers and assistants for the work with victims
  - ❑ Develop the cooperation with NGOs
  - ❑ Obtain other RJ supporters
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# We face the challenges

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## On the part of the LEA

- instructing victims – unfortunately, it is still very formal
- work with violence in the home victims – so far continuing stereotypes and prejudices against these victims
- policemen's, judges' and state attorneys' emphatic approach towards victims – the introduction of the educational system would help

## On the part of own ranks

- insufficient personnel capacities – overloading of employees
  - “fear” of the work with the victim – the probation officers operating, above all, in the enforcement proceedings feel more confident at work with offenders.
  - still a relatively small number of specialists for the work with victims
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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION**

