



You have the right to...

... understand the procedure fully. Adults must talk to you in such a way that you understand every word they say.

... know what will happen to you. You have the right to know what the next step of the criminal procedure will be.

... know what they expect from you and why you have to talk to them about who hurt you and how.

... be told who you and your family can turn to for help and how these people can help you. You must be informed about the doctors, victim support services and non-governmental organizations that you can contact.

YOU'RE SAFE!

People feel intimidated when they fear that somebody will force them to do or say something against their will.

They feel threatened when somebody tells them that something bad will happen if they don't do as they are told. If you feel that you're in danger, please talk to the adults involved in the procedure. It's their job to do whatever they can to make sure your family is safe.

A criminal procedure is not meant to be scary.

Ask questions. Ask for help. Find out about your rights. You mustn't forget that you have the right to be protected and get help throughout the entire procedure.

WWW.UNICEF.HU

You can read more about children's rights by visiting the website above.



**IF YOU HAVE BECOME A
VICTIM OF A CRIME...**

The purpose of this information material is to help you understand the criminal procedure. You can also read about your rights here.

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In Hungary, until you reach the age of 18, you are considered a child by law.

Who is a "victim"? Who is an "injured party"?

If someone has hurt you or has tried to hurt you or cause you injury, and it is so serious that a criminal procedure has launched, then you are the victim of a crime. In a criminal procedure, a victim is called an "injured party" (because you have been injured or your rights have been violated).

The "injured party" and the "victim" mean the same thing.

What is a criminal procedure and when is a criminal procedure launched?

Laws are rules that everyone must follow. Their role is to ensure people can live in peace and that they respect each other's rights. There are consequences if someone breaks the law. A criminal procedure starts when the police or other officials realize that the law has been violated. If someone becomes a suspect, the police will collect evidence, that is, all the physical objects, recollections and testimonies about what happened. Then the prosecutors look at the evidence and decide if the case can be taken to court. The prosecutors represent the interests of society in court. They present the charges and argue with the defence attorney. The defence attorney's job is to prove that no law has been violated or that the crime was not committed by the accused person but by someone else. All criminal cases are closed by the court's verdict. Judges know all about the law. They hear all the testimonies in the procedure and decide if the law has been broken. They punish those who are responsible for committing a crime and let the innocent go.

What happens if you give a testimony?

If you give a testimony, your parents must be there with you. If this is not possible because, for example, the police suspect that your parents are the ones who have hurt you, an adult will be asked to represent your interests and rights and to help you. This person is called a guardian. Children who are interviewed by the police or in court are often afraid that somebody will be punished because of what they say, maybe someone they know or love. It is important to remember that if you speak the truth, you help protect others and the world will be a safer place. Please make sure you always tell the truth. Don't say things that haven't really happened. If you are unsure about something, please always tell this to the adult who interviews you. If you are afraid of telling the truth for any reason, remember that the adults are there to help you and protect you if need be. You should know that you don't have to say what happened or what you remember or know if doing so means you would accuse your parents, relatives or yourself of committing a crime. In such cases, you can refuse to answer the question and nobody can force you to talk.

Don't be ashamed if you worry about having to go to the police or court. It's very natural to feel that way.

Remember that you can ask questions whenever you want to if you don't understand something. You have the right to ask for assistance.

You also have the right to take a break if you get tired during your testimony or if you just want to gather some strength to continue.



What happens at the police station?

The police officers will ask you: "What happened? What do you remember? Who did what?"



If you answer these questions honestly, you can also help prevent other children from getting hurt. If you tell them what you know and remember, the police officers will write it down to make sure it's not forgotten. This is called a testimony.

When you talk to police officer, a prosecutor, a judge or some other adult in the procedure, you can tell them at any point that you don't feel okay or you need something. It's their job to do whatever they can to help you. If they can't help you, they have to tell you why.

No child may be harmed or exposed to any danger because of the child's participation in the procedure.

Never forget that whoever you come into contact with during the procedure must take into account and respect your needs, rights and feelings. The child's interest is always a priority.

The interview must be held in a comfortable place where you feel safe. The adults interviewing you must choose their words carefully and talk to you in such a way that you fully understand what they are trying to tell you.

If you don't understand something, ask the adults to explain it to you. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

If you can't find the right words or you don't know how to say what you want to say, ask for help. The adults are very interested in what you have to say.

If you feel tired or worried, let them know! If you are afraid of something or feel uneasy during your testimony, you can ask for someone else to interview you (maybe someone who you've already met and trust and has been nice to you).

You have the right to be safe. This means that you have the right to feel safe and not to be hurt during the procedure.

It is part of guaranteeing your safety that everything you say is kept confidential. Other than the adults involved in the criminal procedure, no one has the right to know what you said to whom. Television, radio and all other media must be excluded from the procedure.

The adults must make sure the procedure is kept as short as possible and that it interferes with your everyday life as little as possible.

If you don't want to meet the person who has hurt you, tell the adults conducting the procedure, and they will make sure that you only meet the person if it is absolutely necessary and no more.

They will also guarantee that nobody will hurt, scare or intimidate you when you meet this person.