

## STEPS IN THE JUDICIAL PROCESS

### FIRST APPEARANCE

The court informs the accused of the charges laid. The accused may plead guilty or not guilty.

### BAIL HEARING

If the accused is in custody, a bail hearing is held to decide whether or not the accused must remain in custody until the trial. The victim may be asked to testify.

### PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

The evidence gathered against the accused is presented to determine whether it is sufficient to warrant a trial. The victim and any witnesses may be required to testify.

### TRIAL

The trial is held to determine whether the accused is guilty or not guilty of the charges laid. The victim and witnesses may be required to testify.

### VERDICT (JUDGMENT)

The judge finds the accused guilty or not guilty. If there is a reasonable doubt, the judge must acquit the accused.

### SENTENCE

The judge imposes a penalty on the accused.



## HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO TESTIFY? WHAT MUST YOU DO?

### BEFORE TESTIFYING

- Bring your subpoena with you.
- If anyone tries to intimidate you or to influence your testimony, tell a police officer or the criminal and penal prosecuting attorney [crown attorney]



### WHILE TESTIFYING

- Switch off your cell phone and pager.
- Use a polite form of address when speaking to the judge.
- You may ask for your address to remain confidential if you wish.
- Remain courteous, and speak loudly and clearly.
- Listen carefully to each question and take your time answering. If you do not know the answer, say so.
- Make sure you understand the question properly before answering. If you do not understand the question, ask for it to be repeated or phrased in a different way.
- Report the facts. You are not being asked to express your opinion or to interpret the situation.
- Remain silent if one of the lawyers makes an objection. The judge will tell you whether or not to answer.

### AFTER TESTIFYING

Go to the clerk's office for criminal cases at the courthouse, and present your subpoena in order to receive the allowances to which you are entitled.



### Cree Southern CAVAC

Toll Free: 1 [855] 603-6137  
Mistissini, Oujé-Bougoumou  
Waswanipi

### Cree Northern CAVAC

Toll Free: 1 [855] 603-6136  
Whapmagoostui, Chisasibi  
Wemindji

### Cree Central CAVAC

Toll Free: 1 [855] 603-6168  
Waskaganish, Nemaska  
Eastmain

[cavacinfo@cngov.ca](mailto:cavacinfo@cngov.ca)



## A NEW DAY DAWNS

[creejustice.ca](http://creejustice.ca)

This pamphlet is inspired by "A new day dawns", previously printed material from Justice Quebec, in partnership with CAVAC of Quebec.



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Cree Nation Government  
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Department of Justice and Correctional Services

## THE EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE

If you have been the victim of a crime and are feeling the effects, remember that this is **NORMAL**. Violence can leave both visible and invisible traces. The victims of crime may experience a range of consequences, which may vary from one person to another.

The impact of the crime may affect various aspects of your life. Some consequences of a crime:



### PHYSICAL CONSEQUENCES

- Headaches
- Respiratory problems
- Physical pain
- Physical injury [fractures, burns, bruises]
- Difficulty sleeping
- Exhaustion
- Digestive problems
- General feeling of unease
- Unwanted pregnancy
- Sexually transmitted infections



### SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES

- Loss of confidence and mistrust of other people
- Lack of understanding among family and friends
- Isolation from family, friends and the community
- Fear of going out
- Fear of being alone
- Feeling of uneasiness in public places
- Relational or family tensions



### PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL CONSEQUENCES

- Sadness
- Fear
- Shame
- Difficulty concentrating
- Guilt
- Dark thoughts
- Loss of memory
- Anger, rage
- Loss of self-confidence and self-esteem
- Self-destructive behaviour: self-harming, eating disorders, misuse of alcohol and drugs
- Flashbacks of the crime



### SPIRITUAL CONSEQUENCES

- Doubt about one's own beliefs
- Loss of hope and enjoyment of life
- Loss of harmonious relationships with other people
- Anger towards God or the Creator
- Feelings of existential emptiness



## HAVE YOU, OR HAS SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU, WITNESSED OR BEEN THE VICTIM OF A CRIME?

**IF SO, DON'T WORRY, YOU WON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT ALONE!**

The professional staff at the crime victim assistance centre, or CAVAC, is there to help you. Your local CAVAC provides the following services:

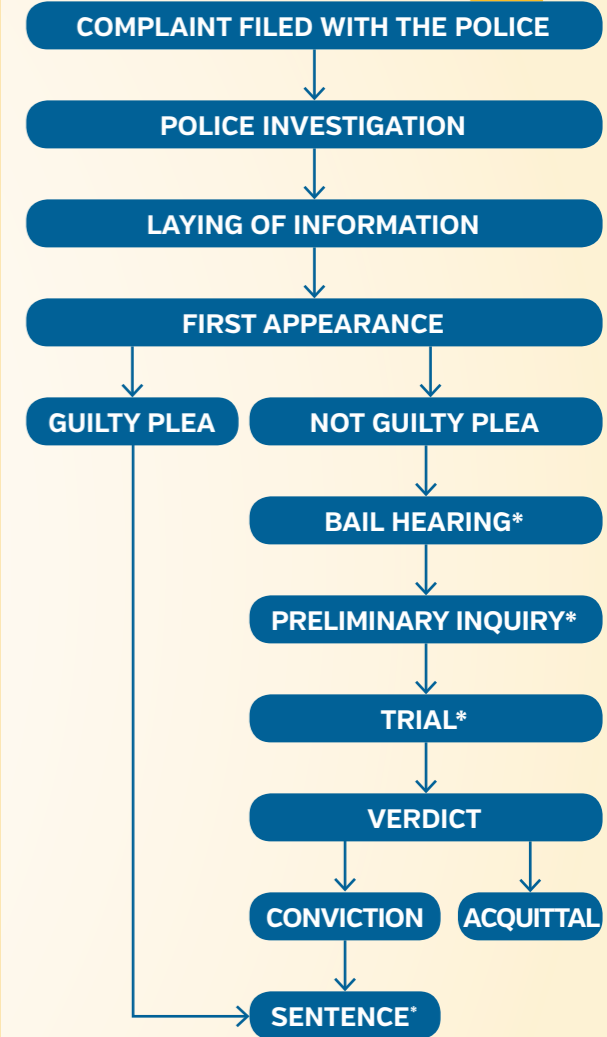
- Assistance in dealing with the stress caused by a crime;
- Telephone counselling;
- Listening, comfort and moral support;
- Information about the judicial process and testifying in court;
- Information about your rights and recourses and compensation programs;
- Technical assistance for completing forms;
- Referral to specialized services if necessary;
- Support for your actions and accompaniment throughout the judicial process.

**ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND FREE OF CHARGE.**



## THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS

Here are the main steps in the judicial process. An asterisk [\*] indicates that you may have to testify at this step.



**Note:** It is important to realize that the accused may plead guilty, in other words admit to his or her crime, at any step in the judicial process, even after pleading not guilty at the preliminary inquiry. If this occurs, the judge may impose a sentence without completing the other steps.

If you have been the victim of a crime, ask for help from a caseworker at your local CAVAC. This person will help you name and understand all the feelings and sensations that you have experienced since the event.