

About the British Columbia Review Board (BCRB)

The **BCRB** is an independent adjudicative tribunal, established under the **Criminal Code**, to make dispositions (orders) about accused persons found **not criminally responsible (NCRMD)** or **unfit to stand trial (UST)** because they **suffer from a mental disorder**.

Review Board Hearings for the Accused

At a hearing of the **BCRB**, a person who has been found **NCRMD** may be:

- held in custody at a psychiatric facility;
- released into the community under supervision; or
- discharged absolutely.

Until the accused is absolutely discharged, he or she must be brought before the **BCRB** annually or as otherwise required so that the Review Board can hear evidence about:

- the need to protect the public;
- the accused's mental condition;
- the accused's other needs; and
- the accused's reintegration into society.

Your Rights as a Victim of an Offence

If you have suffered harm, including physical or emotional loss, as a victim of an offence, you have the following rights:

- You are entitled to the relevant **Criminal Code** provisions (CCC Part XX.I s.722(4), s.672.54, s.672.5, s.672.64 and s.672.84);
- You are entitled to request and receive notice of the time and place for the accused's next hearing and to attend the hearing;
- You may submit a **Victim Impact Statement (VIS)** at any time;
- You may request adjournment of a **BCRB** or a court hearing under s.672.64 in order to prepare and submit a **VIS**;
- You may ask the **BCRB** to be permitted to read your **VIS** at a hearing;
- You may request notice of an accused person's absolute or conditional discharge and intended place of residence; and,
- You are entitled to notice of a court review of an accused's 'High Risk Accused' designation and to file a statement with the court.

It is your responsibility to notify the Review Board, either in writing or by telephone, of any changes in your address or contact information in order to receive Notice of Hearing about the accused.

When to File a Victim Impact Statement

The decision to file a **Victim Impact Statement (VIS) is entirely voluntary.**

Once you have filed an initial **VIS**, you do not need to file another one. Your statement becomes part of the **BCRB's** record.

All **VISs** will be considered each time the **BCRB** holds a hearing for the accused.

The **BCRB** can obtain your **VIS** in the following circumstances:

- 1) If you have provided the court with a **VIS** at the accused's criminal trial, you may ask Crown counsel to send a copy of your **VIS** to the **BCRB**.
- 2) If you did not provide a **VIS** at the accused's trial, you may file a **VIS** at any time through Crown counsel, a Victim Services worker or directly with the **BCRB**.
- 3) If you suffer from a recurring or chronic injury as a result of the accused's offence and the impact has become more severe or debilitating since you filed your initial statement, you may file a new or amended **VIS** at any time.
- 4) If the victim is incapable of filing a **VIS**, you may file or present a statement of behalf of the victim if you:
 - are a relative of the victim;
 - have custody of the victim; or
 - are responsible for the care and support of the victim or are a dependent of the victim.

Assistance in Preparing Your Victim Impact Statement

A victim service worker, friend or family member can assist in preparing your **Victim Impact Statement (VIS)**. A service called **VictimLink** provides victims with help and information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at:

**BC Toll Free | 800 563-0808
(TTY: 604 875-0885)**

<http://www.victiminfo.ca/services/victimlink>

Submitting Your Victim Impact Statement

You may submit a **VIS** or contact the **BCRB** at:

**British Columbia Review Board
1270-605 Robson Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5J3**

**| 604 660-8789
BC Toll Free | 877 305-2277
Fax: | 604 660-8809
Web: <http://bcrb.bc.ca>**

There is also a dedicated Crown Counsel Office which deals with **BCRB** matters to which you may submit your **VIS** or questions:

**| 604 927-2156
Port Coquitlam**



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
REVIEW BOARD**

**Victim Impact
Statement
Information Guide**