

# Victim Compensation

There are a number of programs for those who have been attacked that offer compensation, even if the attacker is not caught. Covering the cost of counseling, dental & medical expenses, and damaged property; the victim's compensation program offers coverage for things not covered by other agencies and is available to those who have been assaulted and have reported the crime. It is important that you contact Victim Services soon after reporting the attack to see what programs are available for you to apply to.

Also, it is possible to take your attacker to court and sue them personally for compensation. If you choose to do this you will have to talk to a lawyer, legal aid or a community law office. They can help you decide whether or not to lay a civil lawsuit and to figure out just what kind of compensation you should try to get.

## Report or Not...

Choosing to report or not is up to you. It can be embarrassing to have to "out" yourself to the police in this kind of situation; to explain why you were alone at night on the streets or in the park. There is a chance that the police officer who takes your statement may not be sympathetic; which is why you should take someone with you. Plus, there is no guarantee that the attackers will be caught.

However, if you do report you are fighting back against the hate. If the attacker can be caught they will be charged with the crime. You will make the police aware of the dangers; allowing them to better police the area where you were attacked. You will be able to make a claim for compensation. Reporting the crime can help you in dealing with the attack-you'll be doing something constructive, facing your fear.

Whatever you choose to do it is very important that you make an informed choice. To be attacked is very frightening. You may need help in making this decision, talk to someone, but the decision is yours.

## Some Numbers

Police:	911 975.8300
Victim Services	975.8400
Mobile Crisis	933.6200
Abused Women's line	888.338.0880
Provincial Legal Aid	800.667.3764

*The Avenue Community Centre  
for Gender and Sexual Diversity*

### Saskatoon

Office:	#201 - 320 21st Street West Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7M 4E6
Phone:	306.665.1224 (in Saskatoon) 306.665.1280 (Saskatoon Fax) 800.358.1833 (outside Saskatoon)
Website:	<a href="http://www.avenuecommunitycentre.ca">www.avenuecommunitycentre.ca</a>
Email:	<a href="mailto:info@avenuecommunitycentre.ca">info@avenuecommunitycentre.ca</a>

### Prince Albert

Phone: 306.922.2228 (in Prince Albert)  
Email: [paccentre@sasktel.net](mailto:paccentre@sasktel.net)

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# Gay Bashing



**Gay Bashing**, is when a gay man, lesbian or anyone who is seen as being “gay” is attacked by one or more people. The attack does not have to be physical, making someone fear for their well being by making threats or chasing them is also bashing.

## **When Trouble Occurs.**

Verbal harassment can lead to an attack. If you choose to answer back, you may need to run or fight. REMEMBER THAT.

Trust your intuition. If you feel unsafe LEAVE and be prepared to run.

Think of where you can go to be safe: stores, busy streets, hotels, restaurants, bars, basically anywhere people are.

If you can't run, do whatever you need to do to defend yourself and to get away. You have a right to protect yourself.

**CALL 911**

## **If You See An Assault**

If you see someone being harassed or bashed do something. Shout make noise, get other people to shout and follow you. The trick is not to get into a fight but to scare off the attackers.

Think about what you see so you can report it to the police, what the attackers looked like, what they were wearing, license plate numbers, anything you can remember; it all helps.

Stay with the victim until help arrives.

Contact *The Avenue Community Centre* and report the incident.

**ASSAULT &  
MAKING THREATS  
ARE CRIMES!**

**YOU HAVE A RIGHT  
TO BE SAFE!**

**PROTECT  
YOURSELF!**

**DON'T TAKE ANY  
UNNECESSARY  
RISKS!**

**BE AWARE OF  
YOUR  
SURROUNDINGS!**

**FIGHT ONLY IF YOU  
HAVE NO OTHER  
CHOICE!**

**REPORT THE  
ATTACK!**

## **After the Attack**

It is not uncommon for anyone who has been attacked to feel fear, shame and to just want to forget the whole thing ever happened. Take care of yourself: if you're hurt go to the hospital, get some counseling, and tell someone what happened even if it is not the police.

Charges can be laid when you have been physically attacked, threatened, kid-napped, sexually assaulted or when your property has been stolen or damaged.

**If you are  
assaulted...**

**CALL 911**

If you need to go to the Emergency Room do that.

Call the police as soon as possible and report what happened. Be sure to get the name and badge number of the officer who takes your report, and try to get the file number too.

Write what happened down on paper. Describe what the basher or bashers looked like.

Consider asking that charges be laid if the attacker(s) is caught.

Don't make the report alone. Ask a friend or family member to go with you.

If your keys & id is stolen or lost DON'T go home alone! If you have a roommate call them and warn them. Replace the locks.

Seek help. Contact *The Avenue Community Centre* for referrals to counseling, legal advice, support, and to report the attack anonymously.