Peterborough Police Service Board

Policy
Victims' Assistance
2026-VA-072

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1.0 Authority

1.1 Subsection 37 (1) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1, ("CSPA")* provides that a Board shall provide adequate and effective policing in the area for which it has policing responsibility as required by Section 10 of the CSPA;

1.2 Subsection 38 (2) of the CSPA provides that a Police Service Board may establish policies respecting matters related to the Police Service or the provision of policing;

1.3 Subsection 39 (1) of the CSPA requires that the Board's Strategic Plan include quantitative and qualitative performance objectives and indicators of outcomes relating to, inter alia, police assistance to victims of crime and re-victimization rates;

1.4 Subsection 1. 4 of the CSPA provides for the importance of respect for victims of crime and understanding of their needs;

1.5 Subsection 82 (1) (c) of the CSPA provides that police officers have a duty to assist victims of crime;

1.6 Subsection 11 (1) 5 of the CSPA provides that adequate and effective policing includes, inter alia, providing assistance to victims of crime;

1.7 Subsection 13 (1) and (2) of O. Reg. 392/23: Adequacy and Effective Policing (General) prescribes standards for adequate and effective policing respecting assistance to victims of crime;

1.8 The Board deems it appropriate that the Chief of Police establish procedures on providing assistance to victims that reflect the principles of the *Victims' Bill of Rights, 1995* and sets out the role and responsibilities of Members providing victims' assistance;

1.9 The Board deems it appropriate to have a policy on victims' assistance;

NOW THEREFORE THE PETERBOROUGH POLICE SERVICE BOARD APPROVES AND ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING:

2.0 Definitions

In this Policy:

2.1 **"Act" or "CSPA"** means the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c.1, Sched. 1*, and amendments thereto;

2.2 **"Board"** means the Peterborough Police Service Board;

2.3 **"Chief"** means the Chief of the Peterborough Police Service;

2.4 **"Member"** means a member of the Peterborough Police Service;

2.5 **"Service"** means the Peterborough Police Service.

3.0 Board Policy

3.1 The Board recognizes that issues relating to victims' assistance form an important part of policing, and it is therefore the policy of this Board that victims' assistance issues be dealt with in a professional and thorough manner, and in accordance with procedures established by the Chief as directed in this Policy.

4.0 Direction to the Chief

4.1 Procedures

4.1.1 The Chief shall establish procedures on providing assistance to victims in accordance with the Community and Safety Well-Being Plan developed by the County of Peterborough in accordance with Part XVI of the CSPA.

4.2 Community Partnership

4.2.1 The Chief shall work in partnership with the Ministry of the Attorney General's Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) and agencies that deliver the Victim Crisis and Referral Service (VCARS) program, where available, and municipalities, community and social service agencies and other local organizations, to promote the development of an integrated service delivery framework for providing assistance to victims, including safety planning.

4.3 Training

4.3.1 The Chief shall ensure that Members are aware of victims' service providers or a victim referral service available in the area.

4.3.2 The Chief shall ensure that in each instance where there is police service contact with one or more victims of crime involving physical and/or psychological injury that such victims are referred to the appropriate community service available in their area.

4.3.3 The Chief shall ensure that Members are aware of the provisions of the *Victims Bill of Rights, 1995,* and are kept informed of changes in the law relating to victims' assistance.

5.0 Report to the Board

5.1 The Chief shall report to the Board on the Service's implementation of this Policy as follows:

5.1.1 In response to questions from the Board regarding Service procedures developed pursuant to the policy, either verbally at a meeting when the question is asked, or in writing at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, as directed by the Board; and

5.1.2 Within thirty days of the Chief becoming aware of a breach of Service procedures developed pursuant to this policy that the Chief in his sole discretion determines to be a significant breach that is likely to result in

liability for or reputational damage to the Board or the Service, the Chief shall:

a) report to the Board verbally regarding the matter at its next regularly scheduled meeting;

b) provide periodic verbal updates as directed by the Board at subsequent meetings pending completion of internal and external proceedings regarding the matter; and

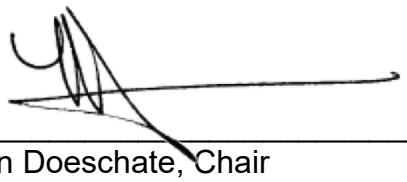
c) after the conclusion of all internal and external proceedings regarding the matter, provide a written report to the Board explaining:

   i) the breach;
   ii) the circumstances surrounding the breach;
   iii) the Chief's liability or reputational concerns; and
   iv) the corrective measures taken, including amendments to the procedure to guard against future breaches.

6.0 Implementation

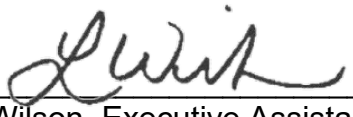
6.1 That the Board approves and adopts this Policy #2026-VA-072 Victims' Assistance which shall come into force on October 21, 2026.

6.2 That Policy #VA-001 Victims' Assistance, enacted on October 20, 2014, is hereby repealed effective October 21, 2026.



Mary ten Doeschate, Chair
Peterborough Police Service Board

October 20, 2026
Date



Lisa Wilson, Executive Assistant
Peterborough Police Service Board

October 20, 2026
Date