



## The investigation

Investigation is working out what happened.

The police will collect **evidence**. Evidence is to help find out what happened.

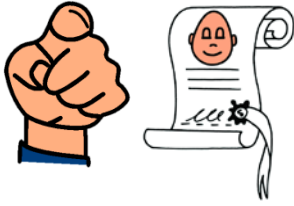
Police will

- talk to the **victims**
- talk to people who saw the crime
- write down information.



A victim

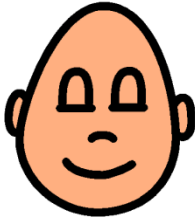
- was hurt by another person
- had something stolen or damaged
- had a family member who was killed.



You can get a **protection order** if you need to.

The court can give you a protection order.

A protection order is



- to keep you safe
- tell the person who scares you **not** to hurt you.

It may also tell the person

- **not** to come near you or talk to you.



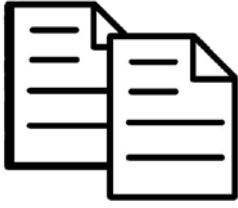
Police will look for evidence at the crime scene.

The police look for finger prints and other evidence.



The police decide if an investigation should happen. This depends on

- what happened
- the chance of solving the crime
- what the victim needs
- what the community needs.



## What happens next

Police will tell you

- yes, the police will investigate what happened to you

**or**

- no, the police will **not** investigate what happened to you.

Police will give you a copy of your statement.

A statement is what you said happened to you.



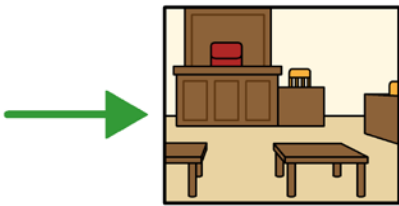
If you

- make a statement

**and**

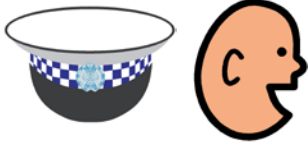
- the **accused** is charged

you **must** go to court and talk about what happened to you.



The accused is the person the police arrest.

This means the person is **charged** with doing the crime.



Police will also tell you

- how the investigation is going
- the accused has been charged.

For example, a person has been charged with murder.

- the date and place of the hearing.

A hearing is when a judge

- listens to what happened

and

- says what will happen next.

- what happened in court. This includes what will happen to the accused.



The accused person may



- be let out with a **Court Attendance Notice**.

A **Court Attendance Notice** is a piece of paper telling the accused when they have to go to court.



- get a **fine** called a Criminal Infringement Notice. A **fine** is when the accused person has to pay money for breaking the law. The crime is **not** bad enough for the accused person to go to court.



- be let out on **bail**. **Bail** means the person can live in the community. They have to follow rules. The police will check on the person.



- go to jail. This might be called custody or remand. The accused person will stay in jail until they have to go to court.

Police will tell you when **charges** are **not** laid.

The Easy English is from information in **Investigation Process**.

Scope's Communication Resource Centre wrote the Easy English.

July 2013.

[www.scopevic.org.au](http://www.scopevic.org.au).

To see the original book, contact the NSW Police Force.

Mayer-Johnson LLC says we can use the Picture Communication

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