

Translation

Information Sheet – Psycho-social Court Assistance

Mr./Ms. _____ (name of assistant) has informed me, Mr./Ms. _____, born on _____ (assisted person) at the beginning of the psycho-social court assistance about the following:

- **What is psycho-social court assistance?**

Psycho-social court assistance offers qualified personal support to persons who have become victims of a crime and appear as witnesses in criminal proceedings. This means that persons offering psycho-social assistance are available to victims for example as contact persons for general questions concerning criminal proceedings. Upon request, assistants will accompany the victim to appointments with the police, the public prosecutor's office, and the court.

- **Lawyers are responsible for legal counselling and representation.**

It is not the task of assistants to provide counselling to victims about possibilities to take legal action or to attend to their legal interests. The person concerned must contact a lawyer for this, if needed.

- **Assistants do not provide therapeutic treatment.**

Assistants must be neutral regarding the contents of the criminal proceedings. They are therefore required by law to refrain from any conversations with the victim about the particulars of the crime, be it for purposes of clarification or for therapeutic help. If the victim wishes to seek help in the form of therapy, this must be provided by another qualified person or institution.

- **Assistants are not entitled to refuse testimony.**

If the victim or his/her relatives talk about the crime or relevant circumstances in the presence of the assistant, the assistant must document this in writing. In this case it is possible that the assistant will be questioned in court as a witness about the conversation. In contrast, for example, to the case of a doctor, the victim cannot decide whether or not the assistant may make statements about what has been said.

Place

Date

Signature (parent or legal guardian, if applicable)