

# NATIONAL HIGH COURT'S OFFICE FOR INFORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TERRORISM



GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO  
DE LA PRESIDENCIA, JUSTICIA  
Y RELACIONES CON LAS CORTES

DIRECCIÓN GENERAL PARA LA EFICIENCIA  
DEL SERVICIO PÚBLICO DE JUSTICIA

SUBDIRECCIÓN GENERAL  
DE COOPERACIÓN Y COORDINACIÓN TERRITORIAL  
DE LA ADMINISTRACIÓN DE JUSTICIA

## **WHAT IS THE NATIONAL HIGH COURT'S OFFICE FOR INFORMATION AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF TERRORISM**

The Office for Information and Support to Victims of Terrorism, established by the Ministry of Justice, is based at the National High Court.

It is regulated by articles 50, first paragraph and 51 of Law 29/2011, of 22 September, on Comprehensive Recognition and Protection of Victims of Terrorism and, subsequently, by article 33 of Royal Decree 1109/2015, of 11 December, which implements Law 4/2015, of 27 April, on the Statute of the Crime Victim, and regulates the Crime Victims' Support Offices, together with the Order PJC/1/2024, 2 January, by which this Office is established as an administrative unit within the Ministry.

The Office is staffed by civil servants of the Justice Administration (procedural and administrative managers) and psychology professionals.

## **WHO CAN BE SUPPORTED BY THIS OFFICE**

The National High Court's Office for Information and Support to Victims of Terrorism provides victims of terrorism and their families with support and assistance.

However, for reasons of urgency or closeness, victims of terrorism and their families may go to the Crime Victims' Support Office in their province, which will coordinate its performance with the National High Court's Office for Information and Support to Victims of Terrorism.

## **WHAT DOES THE NATIONAL HIGH COURT'S OFFICE FOR INFORMATION AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF TERRORISM OFFER**

- ➔ Provide information on the status of criminal proceedings affecting victims of terrorism.
- ➔ Advise victims of terrorism on all matters relating to criminal and contentious-administrative proceedings affecting them.
- ➔ Offer personal accompaniment to the trials that are celebrated with respect to the terrorist acts of which those affected bring cause.
- ➔ Provide emotional and therapeutic support to victims, assessing the disorders caused by the crime and, throughout the criminal process, the Office will provide appropriate psychological assistance to overcome the crime, including

psychological intervention in crisis situations, and assess the risk of victimization, indicating appropriate protective measures and applying the support plan as a vulnerable victim, all without prejudice to the powers of the Ministry of the Interior in this area.

- ➔ Prevent the consequences of primary victimization and avoid secondary victimization and lack of protection after the crime.
- ➔ Conduct initial intake interviews aimed at detecting and assessing the needs of victims, in the context of their individualised assessment.
- ➔ Carry out follow-up contacts by phone or any other digital support, in all cases deemed necessary and convenient by the office staff.
- ➔ Refer the victim, if necessary, to other entities or associations dealing with the care of specific victims, including social resources, as well as monitoring them.
- ➔ Facilitate collaboration and coordination between the bodies, institutions and services that may be involved in the specific support and assistance of each victim, without prejudice to the powers of the Ministry of the Interior in this area.
- ➔ Promote the safeguarding of the safety and privacy of victims in their participation in judicial processes, to protect them from unlawful interference or acts of intimidation and retaliation and any other act of offense and denigration.
- ➔ Inform about possible compensation to victims of terrorism, referring them, in any case, to the competent body of the Ministry of the Interior in the matter.
- ➔ Establish information channels to victims about everything related to prison execution until the time of full completion of sentences. Particularly in cases involving the granting of benefits or the release of convicted persons.
- ➔ Receive communication of the resolutions referred to in article 7.1 of the Statute of the Crime Victim (among others, the resolution agreeing not to initiate criminal proceedings, the sentence ending the proceedings and the resolutions agreeing the prison or the subsequent release of the offender, as well as the possible escape from it), when the victim has requested, in accordance with article 7.3 of Royal Decree 1109/2015, of 11 December, the notification of those resolutions, and to carry out the information and support actions that may be necessary.

## WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE NATIONAL HIGH COURT'S OFFICE FOR INFORMATION AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

- The general legal orientation of victims of terrorism and their families to avoid secondary victimization, given that the orientation and legal counselling of the specific case is the responsibility of the person who assumes the legal aid.
- Psychological support to victims of terrorism and their families.
- Referral to the social resources they need.

## HOW DOES THE NATIONAL HIGH COURT'S OFFICE FOR INFORMATION AND SUPPORT TO VICTIMS OF TERRORISM PERFORM

This Office follows the same general model of action as the Crime Victims' Support Offices, established by Law 4/2015 of 27 April on the Statute of the Crime Victim and by Royal Decree 1109/2015 of 11 December. This model of action is implemented through different stages: reception-guidance, information, intervention and follow-up.

The stages provide victims of terrorism and their families with a general orientation, specific legal information throughout the criminal proceeding, support in the necessary interventions and follow-up throughout the criminal proceeding, as well as psychological intervention programs.



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