

Post Mental Health Court Hearing – Role of Organisations

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Following Mental Health Court (MHC) you may have contact from a Victim Liaison Officer at the ODPP who will assist with helping you to understand the outcome of court and provide information regarding referral to other agencies. They will also assist you in understanding how the matter is now proceeding if it is referred to another court.

Office of the Chief Psychiatrist

If a Forensic Order or Treatment Support Order is made by the MHC, as a victim of this crime, you may apply to the Chief Psychiatrist or Director of Forensic Disability for an Information Notice. An Information Notice provides a victim (or a member of their family or other person with a significant interest) with some information about the Forensic Order or Treatment Support Order. It also advises of key upcoming Mental Health Review Tribunal hearings dates and decisions.

Queensland Health Victim Support Service

The Queensland Health Victim Support Service (QHVSS) can provide counselling and other supports to you and your family following MHC.

If the outcome of MHC is that the person charged is placed on a Forensic Order or Treatment Support Order, QHVSS can assist you to apply for an Information Notice. Knowing that the person is continuing to be managed by a mental health treating team on an Order and the conditions of this Order can assist some victims to feel safer, for others, it is not helpful. Your Victim Support Coordinator can assist you in considering these options and can assist with linking to other supports and services. QHVSS assists with preparing Victim Impact Statements for Mental Health Review Tribunal hearings if you wish to.

Mental Health Treating Teams

If the person charged is placed on a Forensic Order or Treatment Support Order, they will be provided treatment by an authorised mental health service. An authorised doctor will prepare a plan aimed at treating the person's mental illness, managing the risk of re-offending and providing rehabilitation. The treating team will usually include a psychiatrist, nurses and allied health professionals. The treating team will assess the progress of rehabilitation, treatment (such as medication or therapy) and other support required and prepare a report for consideration by the Mental Health Review Tribunal (MHRT).

Mental Health Review Tribunal

The Mental Health Review Tribunal (known as the Tribunal or the MHRT) has responsibility for reviewing the Forensic Order and Treatment Support Order of a person who has been through MHC. Reviews usually occur every six months but can be more frequent. At each review, the MHRT will determine if the Order needs to continue, the category of the Order (inpatient or community) and decide if any conditions should be removed, changed, or made on the Order.

Victims are not able to attend the MHRT hearing (unless they have a dual role as a support person to the person charged) and only receive information about the MHRT Hearing if they have applied and been approved to have an Information Notice.

Lawyers from Crown Law appear at MHRT hearings on behalf of the Attorney-General representing the broader community in these proceedings. They will appear in cases where the person charged is on a Forensic Order. They are not involved in MHRT Reviews where the person charged is on a Treatment Support Order.

The *Mental Health Act 2016 (Qld)* sets out the decisions that the MHRT must make and the key considerations in making those decisions.

Additional Supports

At any stage before, during or after MHC the following services may be applicable:

Queensland Homicide Victim Support Group (QHVSG)

QHVSG is an experienced team of counsellors and peer supporters who offer education, advocacy, and support through the aftermath of homicide. QHVSG offers a case management approach tailored for each person's specific needs and situation. The service specialises in support to those affected by the impact of homicides.
www.qhvsg.org.au

Victim Assist Queensland (VAQ)

VAQ assist victims of crime after they experience violent crime or domestic and family violence. They provide financial assistance and referrals to other agencies.

Victim Assist Queensland | Your rights, crime and the law | Queensland Government (www.qld.gov.au)

Victim Connect

If you have experienced a violent crime in Queensland, Victim Connect is a free, confidential service that provides information, counselling, case management. The service is not specific to MHC so can be useful when matters proceed to criminal justice system. Counselling occurs by phone.

www.victimconnect.org.au

PACT

PACT provides education and support to children and vulnerable victims and witnesses to assist them to understand the legal system and providing support to give their best evidence.

www.pact.org.au

WWILD

WWILD support people with intellectual or learning disabilities who are victims or survivors of sexual violence or have been victims of crime.

www.wwild.org.au

Sexual Assault Services in Queensland

Find local support

[Sexual abuse and assault: getting help](#) | [Community support](#) | [Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

Domestic and Family Violence Services in Queensland

[Domestic and family violence](#) | [Community support](#) | [Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime in Queensland

Queensland has a Charter for Victims Rights for government agencies that outlines how they are to provide support and information to you. Not all of the Charter applies when a case is dealt with in the Mental Health Court. More information about the Charter is at:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/law/your-rights/victim-rights-and-complaints/victim-rights>