



Our VISION is for a society which treats victims and survivors of crime with compassion, empathy and respect.

Our MISSION is to provide a safe and supportive environment for victims of crime, their families or witnesses while they attend court.

We do this by

Allowing victims of crime, their families or witnesses experience a court setting in advance of the trial through accompanied visits to a criminal court when the court is not sitting

Facilitating them in their attendance at court by making available to them a secure area away from the general public where they can feel safe and avail of privacy

Referring such victims of crime, their families or witnesses to other support agencies or organisations as appropriate

Recruiting, training and supporting volunteers to undertake the work of court accompaniment and related activities in a comprehensive and professional manner

Promoting support for victims of crime generally.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of V-SAC are as follows:

To continue to provide a first-class service whose primary goal is to meet the needs of victims of crime and/or their families or witnesses, by ensuring that they are assisted and supported in a professional and caring manner when attending for pre-trial visits and court proceedings.

This objective will continue to be achieved by:

Providing information about what to expect in court, including a chance to see the court before the trial commences and to learn about court procedures;

Facilitating access to a secure area, away from the general public, that offers security and privacy;

Providing someone to listen to confidentially about the case;

Providing easier access to appropriate professionals, including court staff, who can answer specific questions about the case;

Referring victims of crime and their families to other support agencies or organisations as appropriate.

To continue to recruit, train and support volunteers to undertake the work of court accompaniment in a comprehensive and professional manner so that a sufficient number of volunteers is always available to continue to carry out the work of V-SAC. A core level of at least 20 volunteers shall be maintained at all times.

To seek outside donations and funding to supplement the annual grant received from the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime.

Subject to additional funding, V-SAC aims to become a national organisation which will extend its court accompaniment services to assist victims of crime, and / or their families or witnesses and to provide regular support and information to the criminal court system throughout Ireland.

To promote support for victims of crime generally.

VALUES

Our Values Are:

Treating all victims and witnesses with respect, empathy and compassion.

Working in partnership with criminal justice agencies, public bodies and support organisations to meet the broad range of victims' needs.

Acting with integrity: we hold ourselves to the highest governance, ethical and legal standards.

Valuing our staff and volunteers, their professionalism and commitment and providing opportunities to support their learning and development

V-SAC is an equal opportunity employer with policies on recruitment, induction, supervision, appraisals, grievance and disciplinary procedures and health and safety for both staff and volunteers.

V-SAC is compliant with the requirements of data protection legislation and is committed to and compliant with the *Governance Code for Community and Voluntary Organisations*.