

# National Homicide Service

## England and Wales

If you are bereaved through murder or manslaughter and you are an immediate family member of the deceased, we can help you. You can contact the Homicide Service yourself or you can be referred to us by an agency or the police (for example through your Family Liaison Officer).

### Caseworker support

A caseworker will provide you with emotional and practical support as well as advocacy. We can provide you with:

- Emotional support to help you to cope and recover from the psychological effects of a traumatic bereavement
- Guidance and information regarding the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and any relevant legal processes
- Understanding of the barriers and issues you may face after a traumatic bereavement
- Referrals, with your consent, to bereavement and trauma therapists including children and young people you care for
- Support and advocacy through the Domestic Homicide Review process, and other reviews such as Serious Case Reviews and inquests
- Advocacy on your behalf for housing, finance (e.g. debt), employment, welfare benefits, family and school issues
- Access to legal advice and support when needed
- Financial support for court travel costs.

### Murders or manslaughter abroad

Caseworkers will support you if you are bereaved through murder or manslaughter abroad. They will liaise with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to ensure their continued support and guidance. We can also provide you with:

- Financial contributions to flights and accommodation where attendance at court is required.
- Help with legal fees, translation and advice through the legal process in the country where the murder or manslaughter occurred
- Help to repatriate bodies and/or to organise the funeral.

“The Caseworker has been brilliant with help, support and advice, couldn't have asked for better support”

### Criminal Injuries Compensation

Caseworkers will provide information about criminal injuries compensation where this applies, often referred to as CICA. This includes helping you to understand the CICA process and, if appropriate, helping you to apply or referring you to a solicitor if your case is complex.

### Peer Support

We have a comprehensive peer support network, where you can share knowledge, emotional assistance and practical help with others who have been bereaved through murder or manslaughter.

#### On line peer support forum called The Support Room

The Support Room is an online chat room where participants share support, information and reassurance with those who have been similarly bereaved. We also provide information on key topics chosen by users of The Support Room to help you to cope with trauma and bereavement. We moderate the Support Room 24/7 to make sure it is a safe place for you to find support.

#### Group meetings

We have a network of meetings where you can meet those with similar experience. These meetings are supported by staff and Peer Supporters and cover key topics chosen by participants to help you cope with your bereavement. They also offer an opportunity for you to build friendships and support networks.

#### Individual support

We offer individual peer support to those who need it through home visits, telephone, Skype or text.

“Peer Support has been the best support I could have received. Someone who is independent to talk to who has been through similar is so helpful”

## Homicide Service

Homicide Service provides support for families and individuals living in England and Wales who are bereaved through murder or manslaughter, whether the death was in the UK or abroad.

To be eligible for support, you will be an immediate family member of a person whose death was the result of murder or manslaughter. Not sure? Please email or give us a call and we can help.

“Excellent support at a very traumatic time, the service was always there for me and my family”

Please contact us any time on:  
**0300 303 1984**

## Where to go for support

You can contact us any time on:

0300 303 1984

Or you can email us on

HSsupport@victimsupport.org.uk

We are an independent charity offering free, confidential support to people affected by crime and traumatic incidents. For information and support, contact us by:

To find out how you can help us, visit [victimsupport.org.uk/get involved](https://victimsupport.org.uk/get-involved)

**victimsupport.org.uk**

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Victim Support, 1 Bridge Street, Derby, DE1 3HZ  
Telephone: 020 7268 0200

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