

Secondary Victimisation

Criminal Justice

Harm caused by the response to a crime rather than by the crime itself.

What compounds harm

- Repeated retelling to different people
- Long delay with no information
- Questioning that implies blame
- Loss of control over the process
- Learning the outcome from the media

What reduces it

- A single named point of contact
- Regular, plain updates on progress
- Special measures where available
- Choice over what happens next
- Practical support alongside the case

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Much of the additional harm attributed to the process is procedural and avoidable rather than inherent to prosecution.

Educational reference. Secondary victimisation describes harm from the institutional response, and is studied separately from the offence.