

Victims & Witnesses

Law

The position of those who are not parties to the prosecution.

Position and protections.

Position

The state, not the victim, brings the case

Victim has no control over charging

May give evidence as a witness

Compensation may be ordered on conviction

Common protections

Special measures for vulnerable witnesses

Restrictions on cross-examination in some cases

Anonymity in defined categories

Victim personal statements at sentence

Educational reference. The distinction surprises many: a victim cannot usually drop a prosecution once charged.