

## Question 16.b.

### **Victims of Crime Act (Chapter 539 Laws of Malta)**

13. ...**family members** shall have access to victim support services as provided in article 12 in accordance with their needs and the degree of harm suffered as a result of the criminal offence committed against the victim'.

#### **Assessment of and assistance to victims of crime.**

12. The Ministry or any other entity or agency which the Minister may designate for the purpose shall make provision:

(c) for victim support services, as long as necessary, which shall, as a minimum, provide:

(i) information, advice and support relevant to the rights of victims including on accessing national compensation schemes for criminal injuries, and on their role in criminal proceedings including preparation for attendance at the trial;

(ii) information about or direct referral to any relevant specialist support services in place; (iii) emotional and, where available, psychological support;

(iv) advice relating to financial and practical issues arising from the crime;

(v) unless otherwise provided by other public or private services, advice relating to the risk and prevention of secondary and repeat victimisation, of intimidation and of retaliation;

(vi) immediate medical treatment in accordance with the national healthcare system for as long as such treatment is necessary;

**(vii) protection measures, paying particular attention to the risk of intimidation and retaliation and the need to protect the dignity and physical integrity, including during questioning and when testifying;**

(viii) shelters or any other appropriate interim accommodation for victims in need of a safe place due to an imminent risk of secondary and repeat victimisation, of intimidation and of retaliation; and

(ix) targeted and integrated support for victims with specific needs, such as victims of sexual violence, victims of gender-based violence and victims of violence in close relationships, including trauma support and counselling;