

Victim Awareness Course

Information for people attending

Who is the course for?

The Victim Awareness Course (VAC) is designed for people over 18 who have committed an offence such as theft, criminal damage, low level public disorder or assault where no serious physical injury has occurred. The police might have asked you to book, pay and go on this course as part of a Conditional Caution or a Community Resolution, instead of taking you to court.

What is the course about?

The course lasts three hours and is designed to help you to think about the impact of your actions on victims, loved-ones and yourself. You will also have the opportunity to think about what you might do differently in future. During the course, you will work on activities with other people who are in a similar position to you.

How much do I have to pay?

The course costs £75. You have the option to pay in three instalments. Any money that Victim Support does not use to run the course will go back to the Victim Support charity to help support victims of crime.

Who delivers the course and where?

The courses are delivered by Victim Support, the independent charity for people affected by crime and traumatic events in England and Wales. We are not part of the police, the courts or any other criminal justice agency. Trainers deliver the course at venues across the country.

Will I have to tell everyone my offence during the course?

The course is not designed to embarrass you or judge you for the offence you committed. The trainer will not ask you to tell anyone in the group about what you have done.

What will happen if I do not complete the course?

If you are required to attend a VAC as part of a Conditional Caution, you will breach the terms of the order if you do not attend. This means that the police and the Crown Prosecution Service may prosecute you (take you to court) for the original offence.

If you are required to attend a VAC as part of a Community Resolution, the police may consider prosecuting you for the original offence if you do not attend.

If you disrupt the course, the trainer may ask you to leave. If this happens, you will fail the course and Victim Support will inform the police. The police will treat this as a breach of your Conditional Caution or Community Resolution.

What happens next?

We will write to you once the police have sent your details to us. When you receive the letter, you should contact us to book and pay for the course. We will let the police know when you have paid and completed the course.