Victims’ Code of Practice

Enhanced rights – VIPS

Victims identified as VIPS are eligible for enhanced rights. They should be updated sooner and may be eligible for special measures.

VIPS stands for:

**Vulnerable**
- Under 18 years of age at the time of the offence.
- Mental disorder.
- Impairment of social function/intelligence.
- Physical disability.

**Persistently targeted**
- repeatedly
- deliberately
- subject to harassment
- subject to stalking
- campaign over time
- not necessarily recorded

**Intimidated**
Consider:
- suspect’s behaviour
- offence type
- circumstances
- age of victim
- social factors
- cultural factors
- victim’s views

**Serious crime**
If they are a victim of:
- domestic abuse
- hate crime
- terrorism
- sexual offence
- human trafficking
- attempted murder
- kidnap
- false imprisonment
- arson with intent
- wounding and GBH with intent

Note: a bereaved close relative may also qualify for enhanced rights.

The quality of a victims evidence can be affected through fear and distress of testifying.

Find out more at college.police.uk/guidance/victims-code