

## INQUIRY INTO SUPPORT PROVIDED TO VICTIMS OF CRIME

**Submission No:** 5  
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### Submitter Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,I wish to make this submission to you today as a person that has been impacted by homicide in the most unspeakable of ways. What people who haven't been through homicide don't understand is it's not just the emotional trauma that the people around them go through but also the physical trauma as well. The people that are left behind are left with a lot of things they are not ready for and a lot of things that they can't be prepared for either like I was in my situation. In my situation I came home from doing 12 hrs of night shift and was about to go to bed when I got a very cystic message to come to my sisters home. Upon ringing my sister's phone I was asked to attend her home by my nephew and that's all I was told. When I arrived at my sisters home there where police and ambulances up and down her street. The media was already setting up their equipment at the police border. As I walked up the road towards my sisters home I was meet by a police officer holding their gun and was asked who I was upon answering the officer took her hand away from her gun and started to talk to me when another officer started coming towards us holding his gun asking the same question of who I was. Still not knowing anything I was asked to take a seat so they could talk to me in which I stated I was fine standing. The second police officer then proceeded to inform me that my sister was deceased in the house and they were looking for her husband. In what felt like hours but was only minutes I was told he was also found deceased in the home . My first thought was are her kids ok as I had only spoken to one of them over the phone briefly. I asked the officer and was told the 4 kids were fine and are currently across the road at the neighbours home. I advised the officer that my wife was on her way and was told to tell her to turn around and go home as they didn't want the kids to know what had happened just yet as the media was getting bigger down the road. After a little bit of time for me to get myself together I was asked to bring my car around to the neighbours house to take the kids back to mine so I did. When we got back to my home I had to sit her 4 kids down plus my wife and advise them that their father and murdered their mother in the family home and watch them cry and scream no it can't be true. Then I had to calm them down a little bit and advise them he had taken his own life as well in the family home all while they slept in the next room while he was doing it. After giving them as much time and affection I then had to get their older brother's phone number as he was form their fathers first marriage and ring him to advise him that his father had murdered my sister and then himself. I then had to advise our mother and father and our sister and our 2 brothers of what had just happened. Then I had to accompany them all to the police station for questioning and to get more information on the family dynamics. I had to talk to child services and counsellors about the kids and work out the best way to handle this situation and the kids needs. That afternoon I had to meet the lead detective and the head of the CIB at the house to talk about some things that had come to light during the day. In the coming days I was required to attend the morgue to identify my sisters body and the house to go through what was going to happen with the house and the crime scene which was in the house. The murder of my sister started to break my family apart with our mother who hadn't been apart of the kids lives taking them away from everyone that had been in their lives. Our mother had only meet the oldest child when he was a baby till the age of 1 but none of the other kids. Me as the brother was left with the house to clean and give back to the real estate except for the room that my sister was murdered in. So for 3 weeks myself and my wife had to clean the house get all of the furniture out into storage with little to no help from anyone while having to deal with our own 7 kids needs while we organised my sisters funeral spoke to the police had the media chasing us and trying to communicate with my sister's kids. All while trying to hold it together for everyone else and not dealing with what I had seen or been told by the police and things that I had put together by what I had seen and been told. That's not including all the people claiming to have

known my sister or claiming to have known her in the past that believed they were sadder than I was about what had happened. The media telling untrue accounts of things and have the people who did know her ask if these things are true made it even harder to handle. Losing my mother, step father, brothers, cousins, aunts and grandparents just added to the trauma. Over time my sister's kids were turned against me by my mother because I wouldn't go along with her cutting everyone out of their lives. The oldest child worked out real quick what she was up to and moved in with my family and lived with us till he got old either to live by himself with a job and help to work through what had happened with his parents. But the road to get there was not easy for any of us myself and my wife spent many nights up with him crying asking why this happened including me needing to go with him to a child mental health unit to get him some help. All while still not being able to work on my own grief and trauma and having to go back to work to support my own wife and kids. I could go on for a while but it won't as I will tell you what was good for me and what was not.

**THE GOOD** : The head of the CIB was very helpful and made me feel like he really cared about what had happened and took the time to talk to me and answer my questions. : QHVSG was the best thing that happened at the time and still to this day keep in touch with me and that includes the CEO Brett Thompson who I have spoken to on many occasions as recently as last month. I have had the chance to meet other people that have gone through homicide through them and have made friendships with those people. I had a really nice lady as my support person at the time Deb who also went out of her way to help me and my family as well as my sister's kids with any of their needs. Their children's Christmas Party is a hit with the kids and their men's program is good for me to be able to help others who have just gone through homicide recently or are only now able to deal with it.

**THE BAD** : The current Government not even meeting with me to discuss changes to stop this happening again but putting me off to other members instead to make false promises for their own benefit. making statements about new laws in her name that were never implemented and were never going to be implemented to the media. : The media chasing me and airing false statements without evidence that what they were saying was true facts of the case. : DV CONNECT and other agencies not helping my sister before this happened because she had a 17 year old son and a 15 year old disabled son because it didn't fit in their idea of who should get help. they stated to her that they don't help if you have a son older than 15 or a child with a disability but if you have a daughter older than 15 they will still help. I find this appalling by them and the government who allow this to happen by funding them. how is a disabled child and a boy over the age of 15 allowed to be discriminated against and no body cares. : Her real estate not allowing her to break lease when she was in danger so she could find somewhere safe to live. : No one telling her that he was released on bail even though he had attempted to kill her previously and was in jail for that. IN CONCLUSION I found the police to be of high standard that were working on the case but not before she was murdered. I found QHVSG very supportive and helpful to me and needs more Government help in the future.