



NOVA SCOTIA
PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE

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**PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE
EAST COAST FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL**

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Policy on Provision of Information to the East Coast Forensic Psychiatric Hospital

Whenever an offender is required by court order to attend the Provincial Forensic Psychiatric Service (ECFPH) assessment, treatment and/or maintenance by the Sexual Offender Program (SOP) or for a pre-sentence risk assessment under the PPS and ECFPH Memorandum of Agreement, the Crown Attorney responsible for the case shall, as soon as possible, provide the following documents to the ECFPH:

- (1) The Crown Sheet pertaining to the current offence and the Crown Sheet for any other sexual offence committed in Nova Scotia by the offender;
- (2) The CPIC record of the accused; and
- (3) The victim's statement(s) in relation to the current offence(s) and the victim's statement(s) in relation to the other cases for which Crown Sheets are provided under paragraph (1) herein.

It is understood that the victim's statements of the crime are sensitive documents, and that respect for the **privacy of victims must remain paramount**. However, these documents are crucial to the accuracy and effectiveness of assessment and treatment with sexual offenders. There are typically small details included in the victim's statement that, while perhaps only minimally relevant to the prosecution of a case (and thus appropriately not represented in the summary of facts), are central to the **effective interviewing** and assessment of a sexual offender for the purposes of determining risk and **breaking denial** (the first stage of treatment).

1. In order to protect the **privacy of victims** as much as possible victim's statements are:
 - (i) to be forwarded to Probation Services in a **sealed envelope** to be forward to the office of the ECFPH; or
 - (ii) to be sent to ECFPH directly from the Crown Attorney's office upon a guilty plea or a finding of guilt or sentencing, as the case may be.
2. A process has been established at ECFPH to ensure that the confidentiality of victim statements will be maintained once they are received by the ECFPH, Sexual Offender Program.