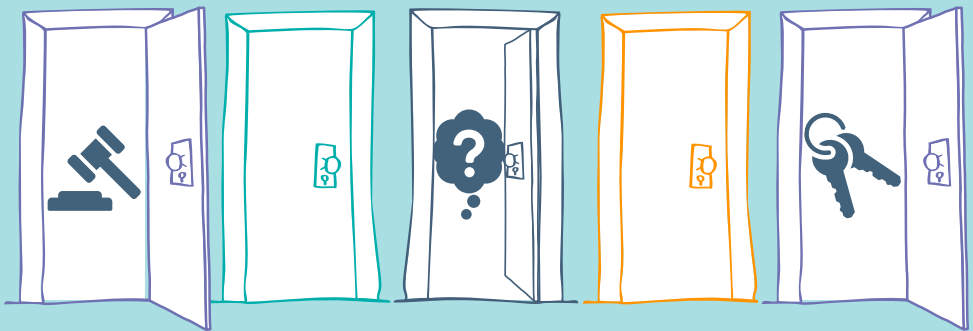




Association québécoise
Plaidoyer-Victimes

Victims of Crime Before the Review Board for Mental Disorder



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Recovering from criminal victimization or witnessing the suffering of a loved one is never easy. It demands a great deal of energy, courage and determination. The consequences of crime can be destabilizing, affecting different aspects of a person's life. When faced with the many legal proceedings that often follow very quickly after the crime, it is not surprising that victims and those close to them feel distraught and desperate for information. They want their concerns to be heard and their rights respected.

If you or a loved one was the victim of a crime committed by an individual who has been found unfit to stand trial (UST) or not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder (NCR), it is the Review Board for Mental Disorder (RBMD) that will be called on to make the necessary decision in such cases.

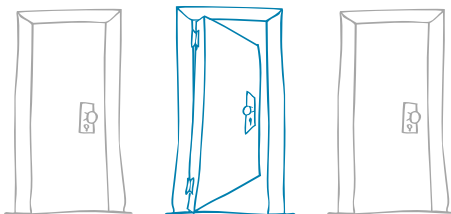
Like most people, you probably know very little about the role of this tribunal and have many questions: Do I have to testify before the RBMD? Who is responsible for informing me of the dates of RBMD hearings and decisions? How will my safety be ensured? Who can I talk to about my fears and apprehensions? What will happen to the person who is found UST or NCR? Will they receive the necessary care to ensure they do not reoffend? Will they ever be sentenced for the crime they committed?



It is normal to feel anxious and confused at the thought of dealing with the RBMD. You will need to become familiar with a tribunal that has its own terminology, participants, functioning and rules. It is important to understand that the RBMD operates in a forensic context, which means that it has to take into account public safety—including yours and that of your loved ones—as well as the mental state of the accused person, their social reintegration and other needs.

The purpose of this brochure is to provide you with the information you need on the RBMD and answer your questions.

It is also intended to serve as a reminder that you are guaranteed rights and recourses under the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* and the *Act to assist persons who are victims of criminal offences and to facilitate their recovery*, and that resources are available to help you ensure that those rights and recourses are respected.



Definitions

What is a mental disorder?

According to the *Criminal Code*, a mental disorder is a disease of the mind.

The Supreme Court of Canada stipulates that this term “embraces any illness, disorder or abnormal condition which impairs the human mind and its functioning, excluding however self-induced states provoked by alcohol or drugs.”

What does a verdict of unfit to stand trial mean?

Any individual accused of a criminal offence is presumed to be fit to undergo their own trial. The *Criminal Code* states, however, that an individual who is unable to conduct their own defense on account of mental disorder may be declared unfit to stand trial (UST). Their mental disorder may render them unable to understand the nature or the possible consequences of the proceedings or incapable of communicating with their lawyer.



And what does a verdict of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder mean?

That means that the person was suffering from a mental disorder that rendered them incapable of judging the consequences of their acts or knowing they were wrong. The crime was committed by this individual, but given their mental disorder, the judicial court declares them to be not criminally responsible. They are neither acquitted nor convicted. They receive a verdict of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder (NCR) in order to ensure they receive treatment and that the public is protected.

1.

The Review Board for Mental Disorder

Is there a connection between these two verdicts?

No. A person who has been found UST who subsequently becomes fit to stand trial will not necessarily be found NCR. These two situations are treated separately: the individual's ability to stand trial refers to their mental state **at the time of the legal proceedings**, while criminal responsibility refers to their mental state **at the time the crime was committed**.

What is meant by "victim status"?

The RBMD defines victim status as follows: "A victim is a person who has suffered physical or emotional harm, property damage or economic loss as a result of the commission or alleged commission of a criminal offence against [them] or any other person."

In order for you to be able to exercise certain of your rights, such as being informed that the person declared NCR has been unconditionally released or that the person declared UST has been conditionally released, you must first be recognized as having victim status. To do this, you need to write a short letter or email to the RBMD explaining why you are a victim of the crime committed by the person who has been found UST or NCR.

This step is particularly important if you were not the direct victim of the criminal act but suffered the consequences of a criminal act committed against someone else. For example, if you are the parent of an adolescent who was sexually assaulted and are suffering moral damages, you may be recognized as having victim status.

Victim status is recognized by the RBMD during a hearing. It may be granted to you even if you did not formally request it, but it may also be refused. RBMD judges have broad discretionary power and significant freedom regarding how hearings are conducted.

The Review Board for Mental Disorder (RBMD) is a ruling body with the *Tribunal administratif du Québec* charged with rendering decisions under the *Criminal Code* regarding individuals found unfit to stand trial (UST) or not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder (NCR).

This is a very specific context, as the individual found UST has not yet been tried and is therefore presumed innocent. An individual found NCR has been neither convicted nor acquitted of the crime they committed. However, they are no longer under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system. They are considered patients under the responsibility of the RBMD and forensic services operating within the health and social services network. If they are detained, it will not be in prison but in a designated hospital.

What is the role of the RBMD?

Following a verdict of unfit to stand trial or not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder issued by the judicial court, the file of the individual found UST or NCR is referred to the RBMD, which must make or review all decisions concerning them. The RBMD may decide to conditionally release the individual or detain them in a designated hospital, with or without conditions. In the case of an individual found NCR, the RBMD may also decide to release them unconditionally if they consider that they do not represent a significant risk to public safety.

What conditions may be imposed on an individual found UST or NCR?

Several types of conditions may be imposed, including:

- not to visit the victim's home or place of work/study
- not to be in the victim's physical presence
- not to communicate directly or indirectly with the victim, including by telephone, tablet or computer
- to live somewhere that is known and approved by the treatment team
- to continue medical treatments (with their consent)
- to comply with the recommendations of the treatment team.



Important! If the person found UST or NCR does not respect the prohibition on communicating with you or coming to your home, for example, **do not hesitate to contact the police.**

What factors does the RBMD take into account when making its decisions?

The most important factor on which the RBMD bases its decisions is the degree of risk that the individual found UST or NCR poses for public safety, including yours. It also takes into consideration the mental state of the individual found UST or NCR, their social reintegration and their other needs.

In cases of individuals deemed not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder, the RBMD must take the victim's impact statement into account. To learn more about the victim impact statement, see *What is a victim impact statement?* on page 19.

What is a designated hospital?

There are over 40 designated hospitals in Québec, with varying levels of security. They are responsible for providing medical and psychosocial treatment, the psychiatric evaluation and assessing the violence risk of accused individuals found UST or NCR, or detaining them. The treatment team generally consists of psychiatrists, psychologists, criminologists, nursing staff and other professionals, such as social workers or psycho-educators.



Philippe-Pinel: a maximum-security designated hospital

The *Institut national de psychiatrie légale Philippe-Pinel* is the only maximum-security forensic psychiatric hospital in the province of Québec and the largest in Canada. It specializes in the evaluation, custody and treatment of individuals found UST or NCR who must be detained because of their high risk to public safety. Individuals found UST or NCR are held in a secure therapeutic unit and a treatment plan is established.

As soon as mental health and legal conditions permit, the patient's social reintegration begins, starting with accompanied outings and moving to independent outings. Individuals found UST or NCR may be transferred to another hospital, external resource or alternative living environment (supervised apartment, group home, etc.), depending on their mental state and risk for public safety.

If the individual found UST or NCR is conditionally released by the RBMD, they are followed by the hospital's outpatient services.

What is the role of the designated hospital?

The hospital authority must ensure, with the help of the treatment team, that the individual found UST or NCR complies with the conditions imposed by the RBMD.

If the hospital authority is informed that certain conditions are not being respected, it may:

- impose stricter conditions (within the limits of the power delegated by the RBMD) imposed on the individual found UST or NCR if failure to respect conditions increases public safety risk, or
- request that the police arrest the individual found UST or NCR and bring them to the designated hospital or before a justice of the peace, who will decide:
 - to release them,
 - impose conditions, or
 - return them to the designated hospital.

In all cases, the RBMD is informed of the decision and responsible for its review.

If failure to respect a condition does not increase the risk to public safety, the hospital authority may ask the RBMD to review that condition.

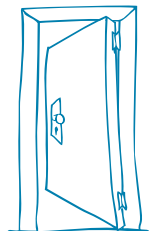
Who are the parties involved in the file of the person found UST or NCR?

The following parties are usually involved:

- the person found UST, represented by a lawyer OR the person found NCR, represented by a lawyer or not
- the designated hospital, represented by a lawyer
- the *Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales* (DPCP), if they so request, represented by a criminal and penal prosecuting attorney. Since the DPCP is not automatically considered to be a party to the file, they may be absent from the proceedings.

As victim, you are not a party to the file. At the hearing, you may neither question the person found UST or NCR nor intervene, unless the judges question you directly or call you as a witness. You are also not permitted to contest the decisions of the RBMD.

If, however, you have a significant interest in the proceedings in order to protect the interests of the person found UST or NCR, you may ask to be recognized as a party to the file. If, for example, you were the victim of an assault by your child who has been found NCR, you may ask to be recognized as a party to the file in order to defend the interests of your child.



All parties systematically receive notices of hearings and the RBMD's decisions. They may question the person who has been found UST or NCR and present arguments to inform the RBMD's decision. They may also contest decisions. If you are recognized by the RBMD as a party to the file, you may also exercise those rights and ask a lawyer to represent you.

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When are the RBMD hearings held?



The RBMD holds a hearing at least once a year for every file in order to review decisions made regarding the person found UST or NCR. Developments in the latter's mental state may lead to more than one hearing a year. For example, a person found NCR who feels that they do not represent a public safety risk can ask the RBMD to hold a hearing to re-evaluate their situation. Another party to the file, such as the DPCP, may request that a hearing be held because they feel that a person who was found UST has become fit to stand trial. The RBMD decides whether or not to hold a hearing on a case-by-case basis. It can also hold a hearing on its own initiative.

The RBMD has broad investigative powers during hearings and can question any witness. One of the parties may also ask the RBMD to call you as a witness.

In order to make an informed decision, the RBMD must examine all the pertinent evidence submitted by all parties.

Can hearings be held online?

Yes, on the Teams platform. If you do not receive the link to attend the hearing, write to the following email address: taq.divisionsantementale@taq.gouv.qc.ca



You will need:

- an Internet connection, high-speed if possible
- a computer, tablet or cellphone equipped with speakers, microphone and camera
- a sufficiently charged battery or electrical connection
- a neutral background (a blank wall or background filter, for example).

It is also preferable to set yourself up in a quiet place without anyone else in the room.

Make sure your microphone is muted unless someone asks you a question directly. Although you may be asked to turn on your camera, you may keep it turned off if you feel more comfortable, subject to authorization from the RBMD.

It is not permitted to record or film the hearing.

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Who participates in the hearing?

During the hearing, the RBMD must have a quorum of three judges: a lawyer who presides over the hearing, a psychiatrist and another person who is either a lawyer, psychiatrist, social worker or physician.

The other persons present are the individual found UST or NCR, their lawyer, the designated hospital's lawyer, the attending psychiatrist and other members of the treatment team, as applicable.

A criminal and penal prosecuting attorney representing the DPCP may also be present if they have asked to be party to the file.

Hearings are informal and public unless ordered to be in closed session by the RBMD, in which case the public is not admitted.



Tip



You may attend the hearing, which will give you the opportunity to have access to information on the mental state of the person found UST or NCR and to keep up to date on any developments in their file. This may be stressful: ask someone you trust, such as a family member or a representative of a victim assistance resource to accompany you.

Hearings are usually held at the designated hospital where the person found UST or NCR is being held or followed. Since the room where the hearing is held may be very small, you might find yourself in close proximity to the person found UST or NCR, which may be disturbing if you are afraid of them. The designated hospital is required to provide a safe venue and ensure safety measures.



Will I receive compensation for attending RBMD hearings?

Only the family members of deceased victims of a crime are eligible for reimbursement of certain expenses, such as travel or accommodation expenses, incurred in order to attend proceedings before the RBMD. Such expenses are reimbursed through the *Québec Reimbursement Program for Family and Close Friends of Deceased Victims of a Criminal Act*. For more information on this program, visit the website at www.programmeproches.ca/en.



How is the hearing conducted?

At the beginning of the hearing, the presiding judge explains how the hearing will proceed.

The attending psychiatrist first presents their report, the purpose of which is to inform the RBMD of the mental state of the person found UST or NCR, the degree of risk they represent and the various risk factors, and to make recommendations. The judges and lawyers may question the psychiatrist.

Then, the person found UST or NCR testifies and may be questioned by the judges and lawyers.

Other witnesses may also be heard and questioned—perhaps a criminologist or psycho-educator who is a member of the treatment team.

In the case of a person found NCR, you may present a victim impact statement if you have received authorization to do so. (For more information, see *What is a victim impact statement?* on page 19.) At the time of the hearing, however, the lawyer representing the person found NCR may object to you presenting the statement if their client’s mental state is too fragile.

The judges may also question you as the victim of the crime. If, at the request of one or other of the parties, you have been summoned to testify before the RBMD, the lawyers may also question you.

The lawyers and other parties then present their final arguments to assist the RBMD in making an informed decision.

Finally, the judges deliberate on the file (i.e., they discuss it in private) and inform the parties and those present at the hearing of their decisions. In some cases, the decision is not rendered at the hearing but communicated at a later date.

2. Unfit to stand trial

Following a verdict of unfit to stand trial, the judicial court may decide to:

- conditionally release the person found unfit to stand trial (UST) (i.e., with certain conditions that must be respected)
- detain them in a designated hospital, with or without conditions
- take no decision regarding the person.



The file of the person found UST is then forwarded to the Review Board for mental disorder (RBMD). Two outcomes are possible:

- If the judicial court rendered a decision, the RBMD has **90 days** to review it.
- If the judicial court did not render a decision, the RBMD must do so within **45 days** of the court verdict.

In all cases, the RBMD must hold a hearing **at least once a year** to review the decision.



Treatment order

Before coming to a decision, the judicial court can also deliver a treatment order for a maximum of 60 days, the purpose of which is to render the person fit to stand trial. If they are still unfit at the end of the treatment period, the court will render a decision (or not) and the file will be referred to the RBMD.

What decision can the RBMD make at the conclusion of the hearing?

The RBMD may decide to:

- conditionally release the person found UST (i.e., with certain conditions that must be respected)
- detain them in a designated hospital, with or without conditions
- return the file to the judicial court if the RBMD finds that the person is fit to stand trial. The judicial court must then decide if the person found UST is fit to stand trial or not
- return the file to the judicial court if it considers that the person found UST no longer represents a significant public safety risk and will probably never be fit to stand trial. The judicial court must then decide whether or not to stay proceedings, i.e., to maintain or to stop criminal prosecutions against the person.



- The judicial court must hold a hearing every two years to determine whether there is still sufficient evidence to order a trial if the person found UST ever becomes fit to stand trial. If there is no longer sufficient evidence, the person found UST must be acquitted.

The most important factor taken into consideration by the RBMD in making its decision is whether the individual found UST poses a risk to public safety, including yours. Conditions may be imposed on the individual to ensure that safety (see *What conditions may be imposed on an individual found UST or NCR?* on page 7).

As a victim, do I have any rights when the individual is deemed unfit to stand trial?

Yes, but it is important to know that there is not currently any automatic mechanism for transmitting information to victims. You must therefore be very proactive if you wish to obtain information and assert your rights. In other words, you will have to take the necessary steps yourself to contact the RBMD to ensure that you receive all information and notices regarding the file of the individual found UST.



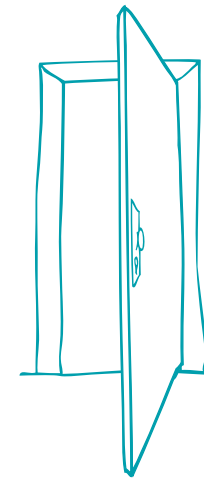
Tip

Do not hesitate to ask a victim assistance resource for support in taking the necessary steps and ensuring that your rights are respected.

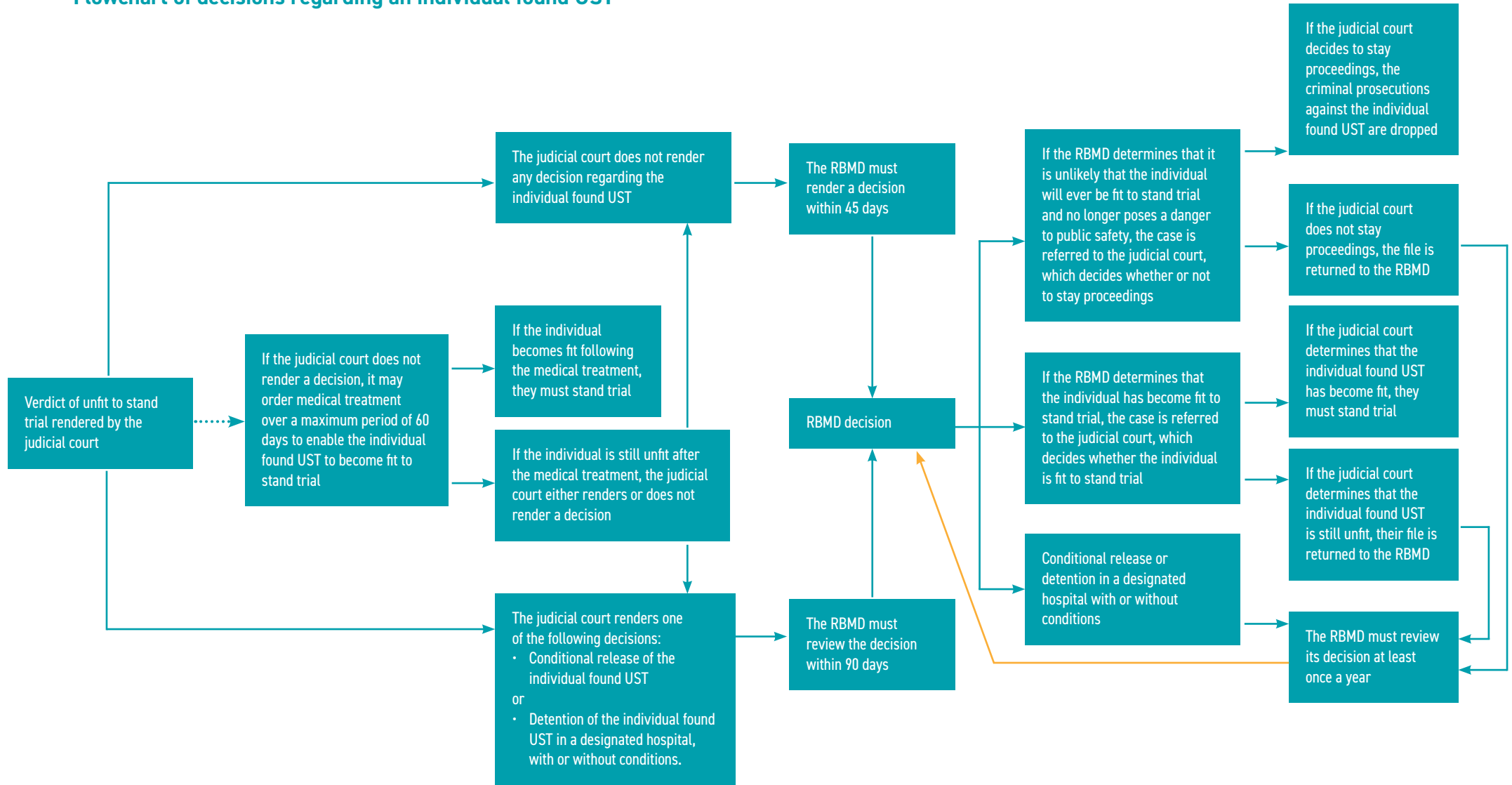
As a victim, you have the following rights:

- You have the right to **attend hearings** before the RBMD. Hearings are public unless they are ordered to be in closed session. To find out when hearings will be held, you may ask for and obtain **notices of hearing**, which indicate the date, time and place of the hearing. This request needs to be made only once; the RBMD will notify you prior to each subsequent hearing. If, at one point, you no longer wish to receive these notices, inform the RBMD.
- You have the right to request and obtain a **notice of conditional release** of the person found UST and their planned place of residence (which will not be their exact address).
- You may ask the RBMD to issue a **publication ban** to prohibit the publication or broadcast, in any way whatsoever, of any information that could identify you.
- You may request and obtain the RBMD's **decision**. Be aware that a significant amount of information contained in the decision will be redacted (i.e., certain sensitive information will be obscured or removed): only the decision (release or detention) and the conditions that concern you will appear.
- If the person is found UST, you may not submit or present a victim impact statement before the RBMD.

To obtain notices and decisions, or for any other request, contact the RBMD as early as possible prior to the hearing. Contact information for the RBMD may be found on page 26.



Flowchart of decisions regarding an individual found UST



No later than two years after the verdict, and every two years thereafter, the judicial court holds a hearing to determine if there is still sufficient evidence to order the individual found UST to stand trial should they ever become fit. If there is insufficient evidence, the court acquits the individual. Otherwise, the file is referred to the RBMD.

3. Not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder

Following a verdict of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder, the judicial court may decide to:

- unconditionally release the person found not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder (NCR). They will have no further dealings with the court and their file will not be referred to the Review Board for Mental Disorder (RBMD)
- conditionally release the person (i.e., with certain conditions that must be respected)
- detain the person in a designated hospital, with or without conditions
- take no decision regarding the person.



The file of the person found NCR is then transmitted to the RBMD. Two outcomes are possible:

- If the judicial court rendered a decision, the RBMD has **90 days** to review it.
- If the judicial court did not render a decision, the RBMD must do so within **45 days** of the court verdict.

In all cases, the RBMD must hold a hearing **at least once a year** to review the decision.



What is a “high-risk accused”?

Although it happens very rarely, the judicial court may also declare an offender found NCR to be a **high-risk accused**, either because the court is convinced that there is a strong probability that they will behave violently, putting another person’s life or safety in danger, or because it believes that the offence that resulted in the verdict was so brutal that there is a risk of serious harm—physical or psychological—to another person. The accused person must have received a verdict of not criminally responsible for an offence that qualifies as a serious personal injury offence under the *Criminal Code*. In order for a court to issue a declaration of “high-risk accused,” it must be requested by the criminal and penal prosecuting attorney.

A person declared to be high-risk is detained in a designated hospital where only escorted outings for medical purposes are permitted.

If the RBMD is convinced that a declaration of high-risk for an accused person is no longer necessary because it has become much less likely that they will behave violently and put another person’s life or safety in danger, it will refer the file to the Superior Court, which will decide whether or not to revoke the declaration.

What decision can the RBMD render at the conclusion of the hearing?

The RBMD may decide to:

- unconditionally release the person found NCR if they do not pose a significant risk to public safety, in which case they will have no further dealings with the RBMD
- conditionally release the person (i.e., with certain conditions that must be respected)
- detain the person in a designated hospital, with or without conditions.

Tip

One of the conditions imposed on the person found NCR may be a ban on any communication with you. If they fail to respect that condition, do not hesitate to contact the police.



The main factor that the RBMD takes into consideration when making its decision is the degree of risk that the individual found NCR poses for public safety—including yours. The RBMD also takes into account the mental state of the person, their social reintegration and their other needs.

The RBMD is also required to take your victim impact statement into consideration.

What is a victim impact statement?

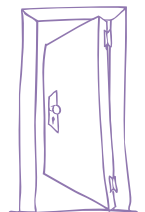
A victim impact statement is a written document that you may prepare for the RBMD, describing the physical or emotional harm, property damage or economic loss which you have suffered as the victim of the crime committed by the accused person.

You may describe the effects the crime has had on your life, as well as the emotional, physical or material damages or economic loss you have suffered:

- **Physical damages:** pain, illness, fractures, temporary or permanent injuries, disability, hospitalization, surgeries, treatments, prescribed medication, etc.
- **Moral damages:** feelings, emotions, reactions, ability to work, go to school or to study, loss of concentration, sadness, trauma, insomnia, nervousness, changes in your lifestyle and activities, effects on your relationships with others, etc.
- **Material damages and economic loss:** loss of salary or income, fees for medical or psychological services, value of stolen, destroyed or damaged goods, cost of repairing or replacing those goods, etc.

You may include a poem, drawing or letter if that helps you to express how the crime has affected you.

You may express your fears for your safety or that of your loved ones—describing your concerns about possible contact with the person found NCR.



How can I complete a victim impact statement?

If you decide to prepare a statement, you must complete the *Victim Impact Statement* form that is available on the Justice Québec website. Your signed form must then be sent to the RBMD prior to the hearing.

If the RBMD permits, you may also express your point of view or make recommendations regarding the decision to be taken.



Tip

You may ask someone close to you or a victim assistance resource to help you write your statement. A copy of the victim's statement that you sent to the court registry at the time of the judicial proceedings may be used.



You are entitled to ask the RBMD to adjourn the hearing in order to give you time to write your victim impact statement. The tribunal will decide whether or not to accept your request based on the circumstances.

You may also ask to read your statement at the RBMD hearing or to present it in some other way. For example, you could ask someone you trust to read it aloud on your behalf. The RBMD will authorize it or not.

Who has access to my victim impact statement?

A copy of your statement is submitted to the various parties to the file: the person found NCR, the designated hospital and the DPCP, if they are represented. It is not accessible to the general public.



Does the RBMD have any obligations towards me?

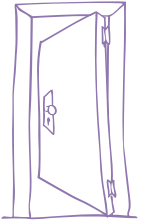
Yes. Following a verdict of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder, and before making any decisions, the RBMD must ask you, the DPCP or the person representing you whether you have been informed of your right to draft and submit a victim impact statement.

In cases where the RBMD has determined that the mental state of the detained individual found NCR has undergone a change that could justify their unconditional or conditional release, the RBMD must notify you of your right to submit a victim impact statement at the hearing where the decision in question will be made.

If the RBMD decides to refer the individual's file to the Superior Court in order to have their high-risk status revoked, it must advise you of your right to submit a victim impact statement.

As a victim, do I have any rights in the file of an individual found not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder?

Yes, but it is important to know that there is not currently any automatic mechanism for transmitting information to victims. You must therefore be very proactive if you wish to obtain information and assert your rights. In other words, you will have to take the necessary steps yourself to contact the RBMD to ensure you receive all information and notices regarding the file of the individual found NCR.



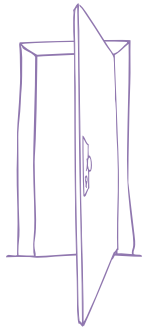
Tip

Do not hesitate to ask a victim assistance resource for support in taking the necessary steps and ensuring your rights are respected.



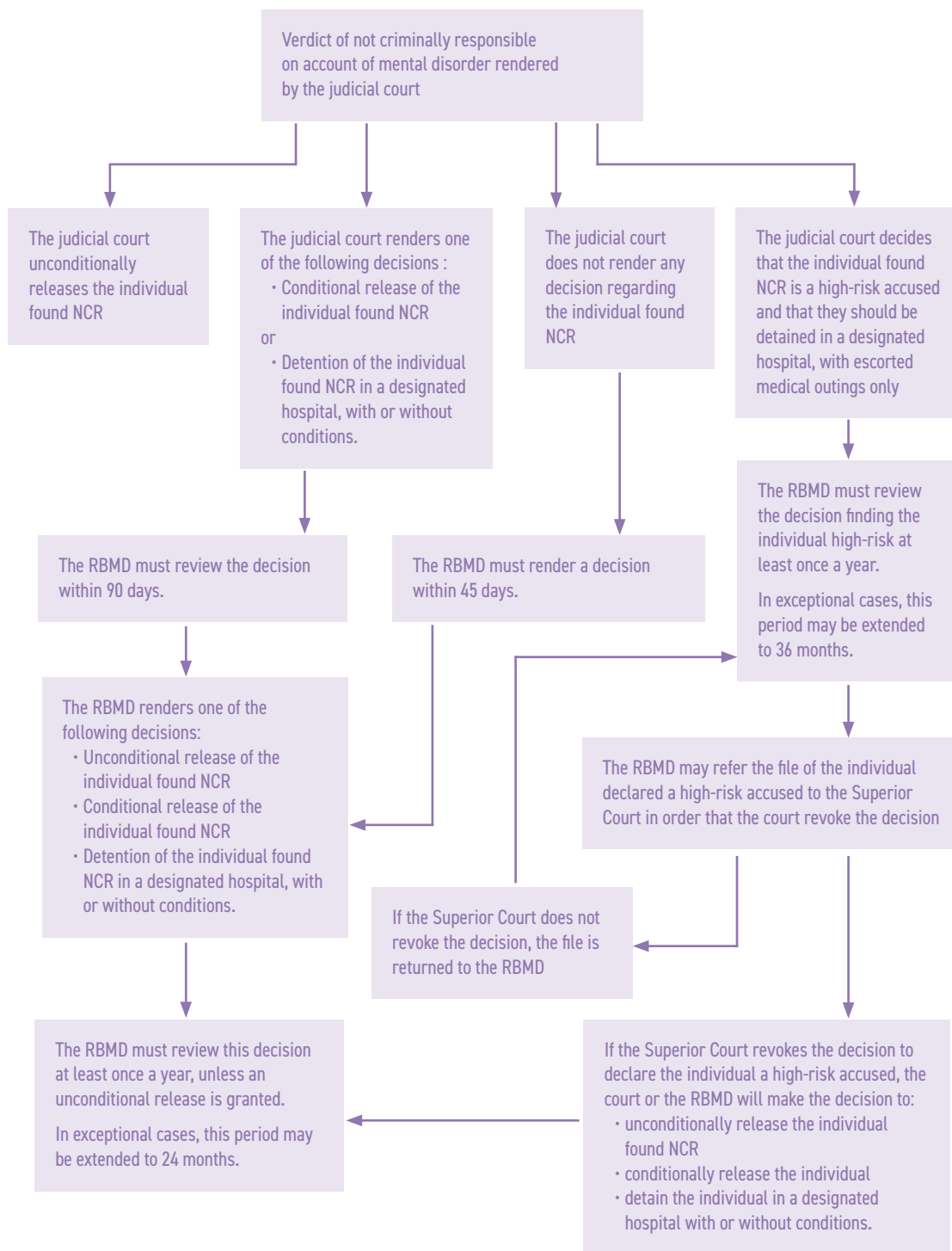
As a victim, you have the following rights:

- You have the right to **attend hearings** before the RBMD. Hearings are public unless they are ordered to be in closed session. To find out when hearings will be held, you may ask for and obtain **notices of hearing**, which indicate the date, time and place of the hearing. This request needs to be made only once; the RBMD will notify you prior to each subsequent hearing. If, at one point, you no longer wish to receive these notices, inform the RBMD.
- You have the right to request and obtain a **notice of unconditional or conditional release** of the person found NCR and their planned place of residence (which will not be their exact address).
- You may ask the RBMD to issue a **publication ban** to prohibit the publication or broadcast, in any form whatsoever, of any information that could identify you.
- You may request and obtain the RBMD's **decision**. Be aware that a significant amount of information contained in the decision will be redacted (i.e., certain sensitive information will be obscured or removed): only the decision (release or detention) and the conditions that concern you will appear.
- You have the right to prepare a victim impact statement before the RBMD.



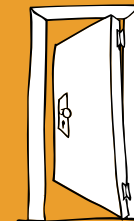
To obtain notices and decisions, or for any other request, contact the RBMD as early as possible prior to the hearing. Contact information for the RBMD may be found on page 26.

Flowchart of decisions regarding an individual found NCR



4. Your rights and recourses

As the victim of a crime committed by an individual who has been found unfit to stand trial (UST) or not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder (NCR), you have rights.



Your right to information: Information enables victims to better understand the situation and keep up to date on developments in the file.

You have the right to request and obtain:

- a notice of hearing indicating the date, time and place of the hearing, and the relevant provisions under the law
- notice of the unconditional release of a person found NCR or the conditional release of a person found UST or NCR, as well as their planned place of residence
- the redacted decision of the RBMD regarding the person found UST or NCR. It is also possible, although difficult, to find the RBMD's decision on the SOQUIJ (*Société québécoise d'information juridique*) website. Ask a legal clinic for assistance in searching for information on the SOQUIJ platform.

Once you have requested and obtained one of the above documents, the RBMD will send you every subsequent notice and decision—you will not need to ask for them again. If you no longer wish to receive them, you must notify the RBMD. Be sure to inform the RBMD of any change in your contact information.

Your right to protection: Feeling safe is a fundamental right for everyone, particularly if your sense of security has been shaken as a result of a crime of which you were the victim.

- Public safety—including yours—is the most important factor that RBMD must take into account when making its decision. This is reflected in the conditions imposed on the person found UST or NCR.
- You may ask the RBMD to issue a publication and broadcast ban on any information that could be used to identify you.
- In the case of an NCR file, the RBMD is required to take into account any fears you express in your victim impact statement.

Your right to participation: Being involved in the proceedings can help you feel that your concerns are being heard and taken into consideration.

- You have the right to attend RBMD hearings.
- In the case of a verdict of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder, you have the right to prepare a victim impact statement and ask to present it before the RBMD.

Tip

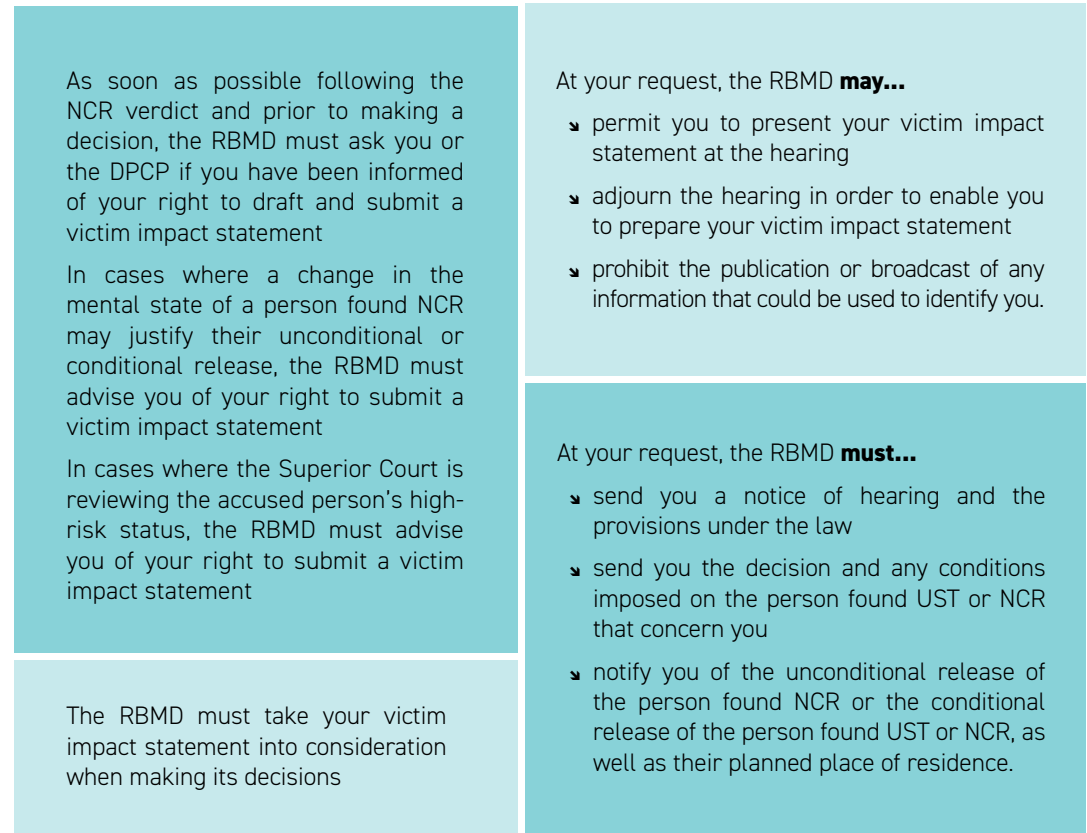


If you decide to attend a hearing, do not hesitate to ask someone you trust to accompany you. The support provided by a friend, relative or representative of a victim assistance resource can make all the difference. Prior to the hearing, you may also request accommodations to make you feel safer, such as a screen to prevent your being seen by a person found NCR. These types of requests are evaluated by the RBMD on a case-by-case basis.

Summary



The RBMD's obligations towards you





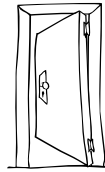
Your recourses

If any of your rights has not been respected, whether by a RBMD staff member or a judge, you may file a complaint.

➤ **Filing a complaint with the *Tribunal administratif du Québec (TAQ)***

If you are not satisfied with the service you received from the RBMD (if you did not receive the notice of hearing, for example), you are entitled to file a complaint. The easiest way to do this is to write a letter or email to the TAQ at one of the following addresses:

- 
Tribunal administratif du Québec
 Person in charge of quality of services
 Office of the Chair
 575 Rue Jacques-Parizeau, 5th Floor
 Québec (Québec) G1R 5R4
 qualitedesservices@taq.gouv.qc.ca




➤ **Filing a complaint with the *Conseil de la justice administrative du Québec***

If you feel that a RBMD judge failed to respect their ethical obligations (if they were lacking in respect towards you, for example), you are entitled to file a complaint.

-  To find out more on this subject, visit the website of the *Conseil* at www.cja.gouv.qc.ca/en/home.html


Contacting the RBMD

To obtain notices of RBMD hearings and decisions, to submit your victim impact statement, or for any other request, contact the RBMD as early as possible prior to the hearing.





-  1-800-567-0278 (toll-free)
-  taq.divisionsantementale@taq.gouv.qc.ca
-  www.taq.gouv.qc.ca/en/mental-health

5. Help resources



Crime Victims Assistance Centres' Network (CAVAC)

-  1-866-532-2822 (toll-free)
-  cavac.qc.ca/en



SOS violence conjugale (SOS Domestic Violence)

-  1-800-363-9010 (toll-free)
-  438-601-1211
-  (ATS) 1-800-363-9010
-  sosviolenceconjugale.ca/en


Sexual Violence Helpline

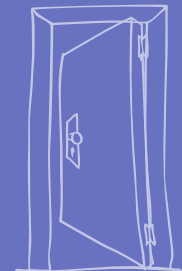
-  1-888-933-9007 (toll-free)
-  sexualviolencehelpline.ca

Elder Mistreatment Helpline

-  1-888-489-2287 (toll-free)
-  www.aideabusaines.ca/en

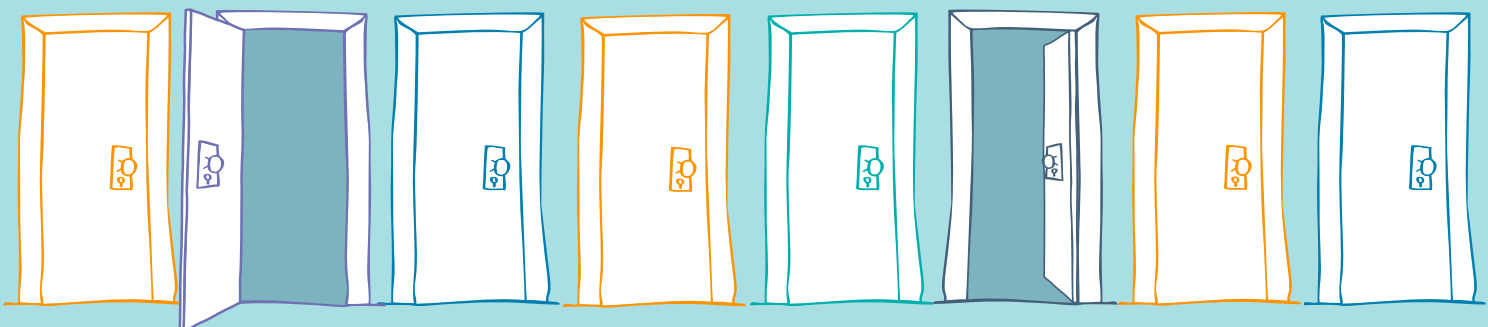
You may consult the AQPV's resource directory, which includes many links to resources that can provide you with assistance and guidance:

-  aqpv.ca/en/help-resources





Association québécoise
Plaidoyer-Victimes



aqpv.ca

