

Abstract

The study, "Assistance to the Injured Person in a Criminal Case in the Bangkok District According to the Damages for the Injured Person and Compensation and Expense for the Accused in Criminal Case Act, B.E. 2544 (2001)" has the objectives to study the assistance procedure the injured person in a criminal case according to the Damages for the Injured Person and Compensation and Expense for the Accused in Criminal Case Act, B.E. 2544 (2001), the factors which has statistical relation with the level of satisfaction of the injured person in the criminal case in relation to the received assistance according to the Damages for the Injured Person and Compensation and Expense for the Accused in Criminal Case Act, B.E. 2544 (2001), as well as to seek the appropriate method in assisting the injured person. The study was done by collecting data from a sample which composes of 312 injured persons in criminal cases who has received assistance in the Bangkok district and by interviewing 3 injured persons in criminal cases in Bangkok and 3 administrators of the Rights and Liberties Protection Department. The statistics used for data analysis are percentage, mean, standard deviation, Chi-square, and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, which were analyzed by the SPSS program. The overall findings can be summarized as follows:

The majority of the sample was female (52.6%), aged 36-45 years (31.4%), completed primary education (35.3%), work for hire (51.3%), have a monthly salary of 5,001-10,000 baht, and are direct victims (44.9%). Most fall victim of offense causing death cases (51.6%) and have average or minimal knowledge and understanding of the Damages for the Injured Person and Compensation and Expense for the Accused in Criminal Case Act, B.E. 2544 (2001) (36.9% and 36.2%). 43.6% of them have minimal knowledge and understanding in the rules and procedures in determining assistance for the injured person of the Committee Determining Damages for the Injured Person and Compensation and Expense for the Accused in the Criminal Case and 29.8% of them have no knowledge or understanding at all. The overall image of the level of satisfaction towards the assistance procedure the injured person in a criminal case according to the Damages for the Injured Person and Compensation and Expense for the Accused in

Criminal Case Act, B.E. 2544 (2001) can be summarized. The injured persons have the “most satisfied” level for the officials’ work to provide financial assistance to the injured persons and the accused (collective mean of 4.37). They have the “very satisfied” level for the office of financial assistance to the injured and the accused, to the Damages for the Injured Person and Compensation and Expense for the Accused in Criminal Case Act, B.E. 2544, and the news and information from the office of financial assistance to the injured and the accused in the criminal case (collective means of 4.00, 3.84, and 3.60 respectively). They have the “satisfied” level for the assistance to the injured person (collective mean of 3.02). The results of the study which examines the relation between personal factors and the satisfaction level towards the Damages for the Injured Person and Compensation and Expense for the Accused in Criminal Case Act, B.E. 2544 by using the Chi-square test found that age, level of education, career, income, and legal status has statistical relation with the satisfaction level of the act. Age, career, income, and the case has statistical relation with the satisfaction level of the office of financial assistance to the injured and the accused in the criminal case. Gender, age, career, and income has statistical relation with the satisfaction level of the officers of the office of financial assistance to the injured and the accused in the criminal case. Age, level of education, legal status, career, and income has statistical relation with the satisfaction level of the news and information from the office of financial assistance to the injured and the accused in the criminal case. Gender, age, career, income, legal status, and the case has statistical relation with the level of satisfaction towards the assistance received. These factors had the statistical significance of 0.05. The result of the study using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient found that knowledge and understanding of the Damages for the Injured Person and Compensation and Expense for the Accused in Criminal Case Act, B.E. 2544 has statistical relation positively with the level of satisfaction of injured persons regarding the act and the news and information. The factor of knowledge and understanding in the rules and procedures in determining assistance for the injured person of the Committee Determining Damages for the Injured Person and Compensation and Expense for the Accused in the Criminal Case has

statistical relation negatively with the level of satisfaction of injured persons regarding the act but has statistical relation positively with the level of satisfaction of injured persons regarding the received assistance. These factors have a statistical significance of 0.05.

The suggestions from this study is that the act should be edited to include injured persons from other types of criminal cases and the period for claiming ones' rights should be extended. The office of financial assistance should extend to more regions, means of receiving information should be increased, and call centers should be established to give information to injured persons about the law and procedures to receive assistance. Short term professional training should be provided for the injured persons or should refer them to institutes of professional training. Psychological guidance should be provided for the injured persons who has been affected emotionally affected by the wrong-doing.