

Compensation Resource Guide for Victim Services and Allied Professionals

The Victims Compensation Assistance Program is committed to helping victims and their families ease the financial burden crime imposes upon them. This document provides information on the benefits available. It is not the final authority on the law, nor does it create additional rights or entitlements not found in law. A maximum award of \$35,000 may be paid with limits on specific benefits (The award may exceed \$35,000 in certain circumstances).

Available Benefits

Medical Expenses

Medical, dental and other expenses related to the injury. This includes:

- *physical therapy*
- *medications*
- *ambulance*
- *home health care*
- *replacement services*
- *childcare*
- *medical equipment/supplies*

Counseling

Victims of crime may be reimbursed for counseling expenses related to the crime incident. Individuals eligible for counseling include:

- *the direct victim*
- *specific relatives of the direct victim*
- *person residing with the direct victim*
- *person engaged to the direct victim*
- *person who witnesses a violent crime*
- *person who discovers homicide victim*
- *person responsible for the direct victim's welfare*

Transportation Expenses

Costs associated with travel to medical and counseling appointments, pharmacy visits or court hearings.

Loss of Earnings

A victim/claimant who is unable to work due to a physical or emotional disability related to a crime may be eligible for compensation.

The following individuals may also be eligible for loss of earnings:

- *a family member who provides home health care or replacement services*
- *persons who meet specific criteria related to homicide crimes*

Loss of Support

Payments may be made for financial dependents of a homicide victim.

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Stolen Benefit Cash

If Social Security, pension/retirement, disability or court-ordered child/spousal support is the victim's main source of income, and cash has been stolen or taken through fraud, he/she may be compensated, within certain limits.

Relocation Expenses

Temporary or permanent relocation expenses may be covered for the victim when it is required for the immediate protection of their safety and/or health. A medical provider, law enforcement, or human service provider must verify the victim's immediate need to relocate. Immediate need is defined as 120 days from the crime date or change in circumstance.

Funeral Expenses

The person who pays or assumes responsibility to pay the funeral bill for a deceased victim, may be compensated for those expenses, within certain limits.

Crime Scene Cleanup

If the victim/claimant paid for the costs of cleaning the crime scene of a personal living space, compensation may be awarded. Crime-scene cleanup includes the removal of blood or bodily fluid caused by the crime or other dirt or debris caused by processing the crime-scene.

The victim/claimant may be eligible if...

The crime occurred in Pennsylvania OR to a Pennsylvania resident who was injured or killed in a foreign country or by an act of international terrorism.

The crime was reported to the proper authorities or a Protection from Abuse Order was filed within 72 hours unless good cause is shown, or the victim is a minor and meets specific criteria.

The victim has cooperated with law enforcement, the courts, and the Victims Compensation Assistance Program.

The claim is filed within the filing timeline requirements.

The minimum loss requirement of eligible benefits is met. If the victim is age 60 or over, no minimum loss is required.

What other services are available?

The Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) is available to support local advocates with onsite compensation assistance in incidents of mass violence including crisis intervention, emotional support, assistance in completing a compensation form, and providing referrals. For help with answering questions concerning eligibility or additional services provided please contact VCAP.

To apply for compensation online go to:

www.pcv.pccd.pa.gov

OR

Download the PA Crime Victims app for Android or iOS devices



Telephone

(800) 233-2339

or

(717) 783-5153

Fax (717) 787-4306

Email: ra-davesupport@pa.gov