

*Crime Changes Things In Ways You Might Not Expect...
...We Can Help*



CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION PROGRAM



Illinois Attorney General
Violence Prevention and Crime Victims Services Division

**For more information, contact the
Crime Victims Assistance Line:**

1-800-228-3368

Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can reach us by using the 7-1-1 relay service.

**Visit our website at:
IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov**

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Crime Victims Compensation Program

The Crime Victims Compensation Program provides financial reimbursement to victims of violent crime who meet certain eligibility requirements. The program is governed by the Crime Victims Compensation Act, 740 ILCS 45/1 et seq.

What are the basic qualification requirements?

- **File an application** within 5 years of the crime date (3 years after age 18 for minors or 3 years from removal of a disability).
- **Notify law enforcement** within 72 hours of the crime's occurrence. In cases of sexual assault, sexual abuse, or human trafficking, notify law enforcement within 7 days.
- Cooperate with law enforcement to arrest and prosecute the offender.
- The following also satisfies the notification and cooperation requirements:
 - Obtaining a Plenary Order of Protection, Civil No Contact Order or Stalking No Contact Order
 - Having a sexual assault evidence collection kit performed
 - Engaging in a legal proceeding involving a claim that the applicant is a human trafficking victim
 - Medical treatment at a Medical Facility
 - Report of psychological injuries to a Mental Health Provider
 - Notification of physical injuries to a Mental Health Provider
 - Notification and Cooperation criteria for use of force victims
- The victim must not be the offender in the criminal act and must not have provoked or incited the crime.

Applications submitted outside the prescribed eligibility window may be accepted if the Attorney General determines that the applicant had good cause for a delay.

What violent crimes are compensable with the program? Crime of Violence includes but is not limited to the following:

Arson • First Degree Murder • Involuntary Manslaughter • Reckless Homicide • Assault & Aggravated Assault • Battery & Aggravated Battery • Human Trafficking • Kidnapping • Child Pornography • Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse • Criminal Sexual Assault • Stalking • Domestic Battery • Driving While Under the Influence • Violations of Protective Orders (Domestic Violence Orders of Protection, Civil No Contact Orders, and Stalking No Contact Orders) • Hate Crimes • Hit and Run of a Pedestrian/Person • Hit and Run of Person Operating Vehicle Moved Solely by Human Power or Using a Mobility Device

(For a list of all eligible crimes of violence see 740 ILCS 45/2(c))

What types of expenses may the Crime Victims Compensation Program pay?

Accessibility to Real and Personal Property

Mental Health Treatment (Counseling)

Crime Scene Clean Up
Funeral/Burial/Cremation/
Headstone \$10,000 cap

Locks, Doors, and Windows

Loss of Earning/Future Earnings \$2,400/mo. or net monthly earnings, if less

Loss of Support

Loss of Tuition

Medical/Hospital/Dental

Replacement: Clothing and Bedding used as Evidence

Replacement: Prosthetic Appliance

Replacement Services loss \$1,250 per month

Temporary Lodging or Relocation

Trafficking Tattoo Removal

Transportation

Towing and Storage

Replacement: Eyeglasses & Hearing Aids

Legal Fees Up to \$3,500 necessary solely because of the crime

The Illinois Crime Victims Compensation Program offers reimbursement up to \$45,000 (\$27,000 for crimes before 8/7/22) for expenses incurred by eligible victims as a result of a violent crime.

Who can apply and what type of compensation can be received?

When the eligible applicant is:

- Person killed or injured
- Spouse, parent, or child of a person killed or injured in this State
- Person living in a dwelling in a relationship substantially similar to that of a parent, spouse, or child
- Person killed or injured while attempting to aid a victim
- Person killed or injured in Illinois while assisting law enforcement
- Personal witness to a crime
- Person called as a witness by the prosecution to establish a nexus
- An Illinois resident injured in a country without a Compensation Program
- Parent, spouse, or child of a deceased person whose body is dismembered or whose remains are desecrated as the result of a crime of violence
- An individual who is injured or killed in an incident in which a law enforcement officer's use of force caused bodily harm or death to that individual
- An adult who is physically or mentally incapacitated if their guardian or caretaker is a statutorily defined victim
- The legal guardian of a minor or of a person under legal disability that is a statutory victim. (Must be the Legal guardian of the minor or disabled person prior to the date of the crime)

Compensation Available:

All types of compensation resulting from the crime. Refer to list above.

When the eligible applicant is:

- Person who is the grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, half-brother or half-sister of a person killed or injured in the state as a result of a violent crime
- A person who, at the time the crime occurred, resided in the same dwelling as the victim

Compensation Available:

- Psychological treatment of a mental or emotional condition caused or aggravated by the crime,
- Loss of earnings for time off from work necessary to provide full time care for the injured victim,
- Relocation if the crime occurred within the dwelling of the applicant.

When the eligible applicant is:

Any person who was in a dating relationship with a person killed in this State as a result of a crime of violence

Compensation Available:

Psychological treatment of a mental or emotional condition caused or aggravated by the crime

When the eligible applicant is:

A person who assumes a legal obligation or voluntarily pays for a victim's expenses

Compensation Available

- Medical
- Funeral or burial expenses

Dwelling means a person's primary home. A person may be required to provide verification or proof of residence including, but not limited to, a lease agreement, utility bill, license registration, document showing the mailing address, pay stub, tax form, or notarized statement.

Dating relationship means a current, continuous, romantic, courtship, or engagement relationship, often characterized by actions of an intimate or sexual nature or an expectation of affection. "Dating relationship" does not include a casual acquaintanceship or ordinary fraternization between persons in a business or social context.

CVC CLAIMS PROCESSING AND PAYMENT

What happens when the Crime Victims Compensation Program receives my application?

- Your application will be reviewed.
- Our office will obtain the police report and other documents necessary to determine your eligibility.
- You will receive a phone call from our office to conduct an interview.
- If you are eligible, you will receive a letter requesting that you submit proof of your losses within 45 days of receiving the letter.
- Our office will verify your losses and will make a recommendation that will be reviewed by Court of Claims.
- A letter will be mailed to you by our office with the award recommendation and all recommended payments will be issued by the Illinois Comptroller's Office.



Where to Apply

Applications can be submitted online:

https://forms.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/Forms/CrimeVictims_CompensationRequest

or

Applications are available to download at:

<https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/safer-communities/supporting-victims-of-crime/crime-victim-compensation/>

Do I have to use insurance or other sources of payment?

Yes. The Illinois Crime Victims Compensation Program is the payer of last resort. All other sources of payment must be exhausted before an award may be issued by the Crime Victims Compensation Program.

Payment will not be recommended for expenses or losses that can be covered by any other available sources, including the following: medical, health, dental, or vision insurance, Public Aid, Medicare, discounts available under the Hospital Uninsured Patient Discount Act, Worker's Compensation Benefits, life insurance, auto insurance, restitution, and any other reasonable source.

What types of expenses cannot be paid by the Crime Victims Compensation Program?

- Any expenses not related to the crime
- Pain and suffering
- Stolen, damaged or lost property (except locks, doors and windows)

Do I get the money for compensation?

Payment will be reimbursed to you for your out-of-pocket expenses paid or directly reimbursed to the service providers if the bills are outstanding. Compensation is not available for expenses that have not been previously paid or billed by a vendor.

What if my claim is denied?

You can appeal the determination through the court of claims. Information regarding appeal processes will be included in a determination letter sent from the Attorney General's office.

What if I change my address or phone number after I have submitted my application?

Notify the Attorney General's office to update your contact information. If the office is unable to contact you, an award cannot be recommended.

What proof of my expenses should I keep?

Keep receipts, bills, and any other proof of payment for all items you are seeking to receive compensation for.

What if my claim was closed without payment because I could not find the bills or receipts?

Once you find the documents required to receive compensation, contact the Attorney General's office to request that your claim be reopened.