



Crime Victims Compensation: Frequently Asked Questions by Relatives of Deceased Victims

These Frequently Asked Questions do not cover every situation. For all requirements and complete information, consult the Crime Victims Compensation Act, 740 ILCS 45/1 et seq. at www.ilga.gov.

Who is eligible?

- The spouse, parent, or relative of a person killed in Illinois as a result of one of the following violent crimes:
 - First Degree Murder
 - Second Degree Murder
 - Involuntary Manslaughter
 - Reckless Homicide
 - Aggravated Arson
 - Driving While Under the Influence of Alcohol or Other Drugs
 - Hit and Run of Pedestrian
 - Pedestrian includes a person operating a vehicle moved solely by human power and/or a person using a mobility device
 - Victims of other traffic incidents are not eligible

What are the basic qualification requirements?

- Notify law enforcement within 72 hours of the crime's occurrence.
- File an application within 2 years of the crime date (some limited exceptions may apply).
- Cooperate with law enforcement to enable the arrest and prosecution of the offender.
- The victim must not have contributed to or provoked the crime.

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

- Funeral/burial expenses (up to a maximum of \$7,500)
- Loss of support if the deceased person was employed and supporting dependents (up to a maximum of \$1,250 per month)
- Dependent replacement services loss (i.e., necessary domestic services that the victim would have continued to perform for the survivor's benefit without being compensated)
- The maximum total payments are limited to \$27,000 and several expenses have caps (e.g., funeral/burial expenses as stated above)

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

Yes. The Illinois Crime Victims Compensation Program is the payor 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
- Stolen, damaged or lost property
- Pain and suffering
- Attorney's fees

Do I get the money for compensation?

Payment will be reimbursed to you for your out-of-pocket expenses or directly reimbursed to the service providers if the bills are outstanding.

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 discuss your application.
- If you are eligible, you will receive a letter requesting that you submit proof of your losses within 30 days of receiving the letter. Along with the letter, there will be forms enclosed that must be completed and submitted to the Attorney General's Office.
- Our office will verify your losses and will make a recommendation to the Court of Claims.
- The Court of Claims will render a final decision based on the application and the Attorney General's recommendation.
- The final decision will be mailed to you. Any and all payments will be issued by the Comptroller's Office.

If you have any questions please contact the Illinois Attorney General's Office Crime Victims Compensation Program at 1-800-228-3368 (TTY: 1-877-398-1130), by email at crimevictimservices@atg.state.il.us or visit our website at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.
