



Crime Victims Compensation: Serving Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Violent crime is a senseless, often random act, and we see far too much of it in today's society. It is no longer enough to ensure that offenders receive the harshest punishment under the law. Victims and their families need our support as they attempt to rebuild lives torn apart by tragedy.

- Attorney General Lisa Madigan

What is the Crime Victims Compensation Act?

The Crime Victims Compensation Act offers financial assistance for victims of violent crime. As a victim of a crime in the State of Illinois, you may be eligible to receive compensation up to \$27,000 for medical and hospital expenses, counseling, loss of earnings, tuition reimbursement, prosthetic appliances and accessibility costs, replacement costs, temporary lodging or relocation, funeral expenses, and crime scene clean-up.

What types of medical and hospital bills are covered?

Any medical bills related to the crime, including counseling, prescriptions, follow-up doctor visits, and appropriate dental work, are covered.

How is loss of earnings calculated and what is included in it?

Loss of earnings compensation is based on your net monthly earnings for the six months prior to the incident. You will be required to submit adequate documentation as proof of your earnings and disabling injury (e.g., a letter from a doctor/counselor). Loss of earnings includes days missed from work to attend court proceedings and doctor/counseling appointments.

What are replacement costs?

Reimbursement is available for eyeglasses, for clothing/bedding used as evidence, and for locks/windows that were damaged as a result of the incident. The items must be replaced and receipts will be required.

What relocation expenses are included?

The costs of a moving van rental, moving company fees, storage fees, shipping fees, first month's rent, and security deposit may be considered for reimbursement.

What are the requirements for me to be eligible for compensation?

- The crime must be reported to law enforcement officials within 72 hours, within 7 days for sexual offenses, or in a timely manner under the circumstances;
- The victim must cooperate with law enforcement officials in the apprehension and criminal prosecution of the offender. If the victim has obtained an Order of Protection or a civil no contact order or has presented herself/himself to a hospital for sexual assault evidence collection and medical care, such action shall constitute cooperation;
- The victim must cooperate with the Office of the Attorney General to verify expenses;

- The victim must exhaust all sources of financial recovery (i.e., health insurance, Public Aid, etc.); and
- The victim must not have contributed to his/her injury by engaging in wrongful conduct or provocation.

Does the victim or claimant need to be a U.S. citizen?

No. The victim or claimant does not need to be a U.S. citizen to be eligible for compensation.

How do I file a claim? And what happens after I submit a claim?

To file a claim, contact the Crime Victims Compensation Bureau at 1-800-228-3368 (Voice/TTY). To qualify for compensation, an application must be completed and returned to our office within two years of the date of the crime. The applicant will be required to submit all requested information and documentation related to the crime to the Office of the Attorney General. The Office of the Attorney General will investigate the claim and make a recommendation to the Court of Claims. The Court of Claims will render a decision based on the application and the Office of the Attorney General's recommendation, and a copy of the decision will be mailed to the applicant.

To obtain statewide service referrals or check the status of your compensation claim, please contact our office at:

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1-800-386-5438
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Please visit www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov