



Crime Victim Compensation: Serving Older Victims of Violent Crime

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, and appropriate dental work, are covered.

What type of benefits are covered if the victim resides in a nursing home?

Any out-of-pocket expenses for medical and hospital care, prescriptions, and counseling resulting from the crime are covered by the program. Any equipment costs, such as wheelchairs, beds, or prosthetic appliances, can also be reimbursed by the program.

What type of medical and hospital expenses are covered if I receive Medicare or Medicaid?

Any medical or hospital bills resulting from the crime that are not covered by Medicare or Medicaid can be compensated, up to the maximum compensation of \$27,000.

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 types of funeral and burial expenses are covered?

Covered expenses include funeral and burial costs, as well as travel and transport costs to survivors of homicide victims to secure bodies and transport them for burial. These expenses are compensated up to a maximum of \$5,000.

What type of reimbursement is available if I have legal custody of minor children because of the death of their parent or guardian resulting from a crime?

You may be eligible to receive compensation for the following: loss of support provided for the child by the deceased parent; funeral and burial costs; counseling; and child care.

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 prosecution of the offender, and with the Office of the Attorney General to verify expenses; the victim must exhaust all other sources of financial recovery; and the victim must not have contributed to his or her injury through wrongful conduct or provocation.

How do I file a claim?

To file a claim, contact the Crime Victims Compensation Bureau at (800) 228-3368.

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

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Visit our Web site at www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov.



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