



# Illinois Crime Victim Services Division News

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Office of the Illinois Attorney General

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Welcome to the third edition of the Illinois Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Division e-newsletter. In this bi-monthly publication you will find information about our programs and upcoming events. If you have any questions about our services, you can call our toll free number, 800 - 228-3368.

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Crime Victim  
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## Changes to the Crime Victims Compensation Statute

Effective January 1, 2007 there will be many changes to the Crime Victim Compensation Statute. The changes are as follows:

### **A. A Hate Crime Is Now A Compensable Crime. (740 ILCS 45(2)(c))**

Hate Crime (720 ILCS 5/12-7.1) has been added to the list of compensable crimes.

### **B. The Definition Of Victim Changed From "Parent Of A Child" To "Parent Of A Person."**

#### **(740 ILCS 45(2)(d))**

The statute currently reads "victim means. . . (2) the parent of a child killed or injured in this State as a result of a crime of violence perpetrated or attempted against the person." This definition has been modified so that parents, regardless of the age of their child, are considered victims. Now, parents with children over the age of 18 can be reimbursed for all compensable losses the parent incurred *on their own behalf* as a result of the crime against their child.

### **C. The Definition Of "Student" Is No Longer Limited To Full-Time Students. (740 ILCS 45(2)(h))**

Previously, students had to be full-time students to qualify for tuition reimbursement. Now, students going to school part-time, or even taking a single class, may be eligible for tuition reimbursement if they stopped going to classes due to the crime.

### **D. The Transportation Expenses To And From Medical And Treatment Facilities Are Now Covered. (740 ILCS 45(2)(h))**

Transportation to and from medical and treatment facilities for services a victim requires as a result of the crime are now covered by the statute. A victim will be reimbursed mileage at the current state rate or for actual costs if public transportation is taken. Receipts are necessary to document the expenses. Unfortunately, transportation costs victims incur attending court sessions are still not compensable under the crime victims compensation program.

### **E. Victims No Longer Have To Be Permanently Injured To Qualify For Replacement Services Loss (740 ILCS 45(2)(i))**

The criterion "permanently injured" has been removed from the definition of replacement services loss. Now, a victim who is only temporarily incapacitated as a result of the crime may be eligible for compensation for this loss.

### **F. "Private Legal Guardians Of Minor Dependents" Are Now Eligible For Dependents Replacement Services Loss. (740 ILCS 45(2)(j))**

Previously, only dependants were eligible for this type of compensation. Now, the guardians of minor dependents are eligible for dependents replacement services loss.

### Outreach and Education Activities

This past fall, our Crime Victim Services Outreach Team participated in "Assistance for Elderly Victims of Violence," a special statewide initiative, coordinated by the Secretary of State's Office. This program introduced librarians to services for elderly victims of crime.

Participants included the Illinois Attorney General's office, the Secretary of State's office, the Illinois State Police, the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Illinois Department on Aging, and the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence. A series of eight workshops, featuring representatives from each of those agencies, was held throughout the state. Kim Murray, our Outreach Specialist, presented on behalf of the Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Division. Elizabeth Scholz, Director of the Violent Crime Victim Assistance Program, gave a presentation in Quincy, Illinois.

While librarians were the focus of the initiative, service providers were invited and attended in most locations. Approximately 150 participants attended statewide and received a wealth of information during these workshops. Our VCVA grantees were also represented in many of the cities.

### Help Crime Victims During This Holiday Season

**Crime Victims and their families always need support to help rebuild and recover their lives. However, the holiday season can be a particularly difficult time for them.**

**One way you can help is to donate a cell phone, either old or new, to help domestic violence survivors. A "CALL TO PROTECT" has provided both wireless phones and substantial funding to help survivors of domestic violence and charitable organizations that seek to end family violence. To find a drop off location near you, please visit:  
[http://www.wirelessfoundation.org/CallToProtect/dropoff\\_states.cfm?state=Illinois](http://www.wirelessfoundation.org/CallToProtect/dropoff_states.cfm?state=Illinois)**

**There are many other charities in need of food, clothing, and other goods. To find additional charities in your area, you can visit:  
<http://www.charity-charities.org/charities/IL.html>**

**Thanks for everything you do to help victims of crime all year round!**

Wishing You and Your Family a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

### Programs administered by the Crime Victim Services Division include:

The Crime Victim Compensation Program (CVC)

The Violent Crime Victim Assistance (VCVA)

The Illinois Automated Victim Notification System (IL AVN)

The Statewide Victim Assistance Program (SVAP)

The Illinois Victim Assistance Academy (IVAA)

The Illinois Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program (IL SANE)

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Illinois Attorney General's Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner 40 Hour Training Program

January 22-26, 2007

Grayslake, IL

**Contact Eileen Baumstark Pratt at 866-376-7215 for registration information**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**An addendum has been added to the Illinois Statewide Crime Victim Services Resource Directory. If you would like a copy, please contact Kiran Mehta at 312-814-1560, or [kmehta@atg.state.il.us](mailto:kmehta@atg.state.il.us).**