

Financial Assistance for Victims of Crime

Crime victims have a place to turn for help

The Crime Victims Compensation Program helps victims and their families ease the financial burdens they may face as a result of crime. Although compensation will not erase the fact that a crime has occurred, it can help victims to begin the healing process. This document provides a brief overview of the Crime Victims Compensation Program. It is not intended to serve as a complete list of services that are available to crime victims. There may be factors other than those listed in this document that may determine whether you may qualify for compensation. For complete details, please contact your local Victim Witness Agency.

Crime victims have rights, too!

Criminal defendants are not the only individuals in the legal system who have rights. In fact, crime victims have a variety of specific rights established under a state law known as the "Crime Victims Act." You have the right to:

- Information on services available to crime victims.
- Notification of important developments in your case.
- Have someone go with you to hearings about your case.
- Give a statement on the impact the crime had on you and your family.
- Help in filing for victim compensation benefits.
- Have any property taken returned to you.

Who is eligible?

You may be eligible if...

- The crime occurred in Pennsylvania.
- The crime was reported to the proper authorities within three days

OR

- A Protection from Abuse Order was filed within three days.

Is anyone other than the victim eligible?

Yes. In certain circumstances, others (including family members) may be eligible for compensation.

Which types of expenses may be covered?

- Medical expenses
- Counseling expenses
- Loss of earnings
- Loss of support
- Relocation expenses
- Funeral expenses
- Crime-scene cleanup

Must someone be arrested or convicted before I may apply?

No, but you must cooperate with the law enforcement authorities who are handling your case.

Is there a limit on total compensation?

Yes. There are different limits for the various types of expenses covered by the program.

Where can I obtain a claim form?

You may request an application by contacting your local victim service programs, local police department, the district attorney's office, or by calling 1-800-233-2339.

How will my claim be considered?

After our staff carefully reviews your application, you will be notified of a decision as quickly as possible. If your claim is denied, the reason will be explained to you, as well as the appeal procedure.

How long will it take for my claim to be processed?

Most claims are processed within three months – but if your claim is complex, it may take longer. We strive to work as quickly as possible.

For more information contact one of the Lycoming County Victim/Witness Coordinators listed below:

Troy D. Sellers, Adult Victim/Witness Coordinator
Office of District Attorney
Lycoming County Courthouse
48 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-327-2461
Email: tsellers@lyco.org

Laura L. Bower, Juvenile Victim/Witness Coordinator
Office of District Attorney
Lycoming County Courthouse
48 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-327-2471
Email: lbower@lyco.org

(*This entire document was created from a brochure from www.pccd.state.pa.us)