

Crime Victims Compensation

Eligible Expenses

- Medical expenses
- Counseling
- Loss of earning
- Loss of support
- Funeral costs
- Travel costs
- Childcare
- Stolen cash
- Relocation
- Crime scene cleanup
- Other costs

VCAP does not reimburse victims for pain and suffering or for stolen or damaged property (with some exceptions). Also, there are limits to how much money some benefits will provide. The overall maximum award is \$35,000.

To receive compensation:

- The crime must have occurred in Pennsylvania;
- The crime must be reported to proper authorities or a [Protection from Abuse Order \(PFA\)](#), [Sexual Violence Protection Order \(SVPO\)](#), or [Protection from Intimidation Order \(PFI\)](#) [Opens In A New Window](#) filed;
- The victim must cooperate with the police, courts, and the Victims Compensation Assistance Program;
- The victim must file the claim within five years of the crime;
- and the victim must have a minimum loss of at least \$50 because of the crime (if you are less than 60 years old).

For more information, contact Jefferson County Victim Services (814) 849-1641.

Even though there is a deadline in reporting a crime in a timely manner, there are exceptions to that rule. Examples of good cause for a delay in reporting include:

- the victim/claimant is mentally or physically incapacitated,
- the victim is a minor,
- there is a fear of retaliation,
- the occurrence of the crime is not readily apparent, or
- other circumstances where good cause is shown by the claimant.

Who are the Proper Authorities?

May include:

law enforcement officer

district attorney or other applicable prosecutorial authority

magisterial district judges

military police

campus police

U.S. Postal Inspection Service

appropriate hospital security

probation and parole officer

child protective services

adult protective services

or in the case of a PFA order, the prothonotary or equivalent authority, or sexual violence and intimidation.

Benefit maximums: In most cases, total compensation will not exceed \$35,000. Most benefits also have individual caps within the \$35,000 limit. Counseling, crime-scene cleanup, and forensic rape exam costs are three benefits which are over and above the \$35,000.

Eligible Crimes

The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act

23 Pa. C.S. Ch. 61 (relating to protection from abuse)

23 Pa. C.S. Ch. 61 §6114 (contempt for violation of order or agreement)

Driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance

Aggravated assault by vehicle

Fleeing or attempting to elude police officer

Driving without lights to avoid identification or arrest

Homicide by vehicle while driving under the influence

Accidents involving death or personal injury

Homicide, manslaughter

Assault, reckless endangerment, terrorist threats, harassment or stalking, ethnic intimidation, and neglect of care-dependent person

Kidnapping, unlawful restraint, criminal coercion, false imprisonment

Rape, sexual assault, institutional sexual assault, indecent exposure

Arson and related offenses

Burglary, criminal trespass

Robbery, robbery of motor vehicle

Theft, theft by deception

Bigamy, incest, endangering welfare of children

Victim and witness intimidation

Corruption of minors, sexual abuse of children

The above list is not a comprehensive list of the Title 18 crimes eligible for compensation. For the complete list of Title 18 crimes, refer to the Crimes Code citation: 18 Pa.C.S. § 101 et seq.

Eligible expenses for Child victims after any applicable insurance, including medical assistance, is utilized:

Insurance deductibles and co-payments.

Medical expenses, which may include hospital and doctor bills, ambulance fees, and medications.

Reimbursement to allow the child to go outside a network to a provider who has the expertise necessary to properly treat the child.

Counseling for the child, non-offending parent and certain family members.

Physical therapy/chiropractic treatment.

Transportation to medical providers, Child Advocacy Centers, counseling and pharmacy, attend or participate in criminal justice or court proceedings.

Loss of earnings for a parent to take the child to court or medical providers, or for a working parent to stay home to care for a child, administration of medication, meal preparations, etc.

Daycare/babysitting fees for the child and/or siblings.

Home schooling or special tutoring for the child.

Relocation/lodging expenses.

Home healthcare services.

Hotel costs and subsistence for two individuals if the medical provider is more than 50 miles from home. (Receipts required.)

Funeral expenses including, but not limited to, funeral home, cemetery, transportation and accompaniment of the deceased. When the deceased is a minor child, medical expenses (incurred as a result of the crime) may be considered if no other payment means are available.

HELPFUL INFORMATION - FILING TIME REQUIREMENTS:

Filing time is extended for child direct victims as follows:

if the person that committed the crime is any of the following:

- The child's parent
- The parent's paramour
- A person responsible for the child's welfare
- Or any person living in the child's home

THEN the child/family has until the age of 23, or the statute of limitations on the eligible crime(s) expires to file a compensation claim for a full-range of benefits.

IF the person who committed the crime was not any of the above relationships to the child, then child/family has until the child reaches the age of 23, or the statute of limitations on the eligible crime(s) expires to file a compensation claim but the child is only eligible for counseling and related medications.