

What Benefits are Available?

Wage loss for an employed victim who missed work as the result of the crime related injury or a parent/guardian who had to care for a minor child recovering from a crime related injury.

Loss of support for persons who were principally dependent on a deceased victim who was employed or earned income at the time of the crime.

Disability allowance when the victim becomes disabled as a result of the crime.

Funeral/burial and related expenses.

Treatment expenses for medical or non-medical remedial care or other necessary services.

Prescriptions, eyeglasses, dentures, or prosthetic devices needed as a result of the crime.

Mental health counseling.

Property loss reimbursement for elderly (age 60 or older) or disabled adults only. Crime must be reported within 72 hours and only certain types of property are compensable.

Domestic violence relocation assistance for victims who have an immediate need to escape a domestic violence environment. The need must be certified by a State of Florida certified domestic violence center.

Note: Only those expenses directly related to the crime will be considered for payment. All benefits have dollar limitations, subject to change and require certain types of documentation. Some benefits are not available for certain types of claims.



The Division of Victim Services and Criminal Justice Programs within the Office of the Attorney General provides a toll-free information and referral line to victims of crime or their immediate family.



BUREAU OF VICTIM COMPENSATION

Life Before Crime



Life After



Photos courtesy of Leslie Drew's family.

Toll-Free Victim Services Information and Referral Line
1-800-226-6667

Internet web site:
<http://myfloridalegal.com>
TDD users can call through Florida

Relay Service at 1-800-955-8771

Call the Victim Services Information and Referral Line if you would like information about:

- Applying for Victim Compensation or checking on the status of individual victim compensation claims.
- Emergency assistance.
- The appellate court process or the status of appellate cases.
- Victim service programs in your area and referral to local resources.
- The Sexual Battery Examination Program.
- The Address Confidentiality Program for domestic violence victims.

ATTORNEY GENERAL
PAM BONDI
FLORIDA OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Victim or intervener as defined in Chapter 960 of the Florida Statutes.
- A surviving spouse or parent of a deceased victim.
- A surviving adult child or sibling of a deceased victim.
- A guardian applying for a minor child victim, incompetent person, surviving minor child of a deceased victim, surviving minor sibling of a deceased victim; minors that were present at the scene of a crime, who saw or heard the crime, and suffered psychological or psychiatric injury as a result of the crime.
- A relative applying on behalf of a deceased victim when there is no other source for payment of funeral expenses.
- Any other person who was dependent for his or her principal support upon a deceased victim or intervener.

WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO APPLY?

- A completed and signed victim compensation claim form.
- A law enforcement offense report documenting proof of a compensable crime.
- Proof of crime-related expenses (for example, itemized bills).
- Proof of third-party payments such as insurance, restitution, judgments or settlements.
- Proof of the time lost from work due to the crime and a doctor's statement certifying disability.
- Certification by a certified shelter for relocation benefits.

WHO QUALIFIES?

- Victims who suffered personal physical, psychiatric or psychological injury as the result of a crime. Some exceptions may apply for victims who did not sustain a personal physical injury or death.
- Survivors of a victim who was killed as a result of a felony or misdemeanor crime punishable under federal or state law, including DUI (motor vehicle, boating, or aircraft) and hit and run.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Crime must be reported to law enforcement within 72 hours. Exceptions for good cause are not available for property loss claims.
- Application must be filed within one year after the crime date or within two years if good cause is shown for the filing delay.
- Victim must fully cooperate with law enforcement, the state attorney's office, and the Attorney General's office.
- Victim must not have been engaged in an unlawful activity.
- Victim's conduct must not have contributed to his or her own injuries.
- Victim or claimant must not have been confined or in custody in a county or municipal facility, a state or federal correctional facility, or a juvenile detention, commitment, or assessment facility, adjudicated as a habitual felony offender, habitual violent offender, violent career criminal, or adjudicated guilty of a forcible felony offense.
- A criminal background check will be conducted on all victims and on claimants who submit a claim.

HOW TO APPLY?

Submit a completed and signed Victim Compensation Claim Form to:

Bureau of Victim Compensation
The Capitol, PL-01
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

Or

Submit online to:
VCINTAKE@myfloridalegal.com

The claim form can be obtained from your local state attorney, victim advocate office, or by calling the Victim Services Information and Referral toll-free line at:

1-800-226-6667

TDD users can call through
Florida Relay Service
1-800-955-8771

Please contact local victim advocates if you require assistance in completing the claim form. You are not required to have an attorney in order to file a claim, and there is no application fee.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CLAIM IS SUBMITTED?

When your claim is received, you may be asked to provide specific medical and financial information. You should gather materials related to the crime and have them available if requested.

Limits below the maximum may apply to the specific benefits which may be reduced without prior notice to the award recipient based on availability of funding.