



*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 punishment under the law. Victims and their families need support as they attempt to rebuild lives torn apart by tragedy.*

*Lisa Madigan*  
Lisa Madigan  
Illinois Attorney General

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*These Frequently Asked Questions do not cover every situation. For all requirements and complete information, consult the Crime Victims Compensation Act, 740 ILCS 45/1 et seq. at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov).*

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Office of the Illinois  
Attorney General  
Crime Victims  
Compensation  
100 West Randolph St.  
13th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601  
1-800-228-3368  
Fax: (312) 814-7105  
[crimevictimservices@atg.state.il.us](mailto:crimevictimservices@atg.state.il.us)

# Crime Victim Compensation: Frequently Asked Questions by Relatives of Deceased Victims

## What is the Crime Victims Compensation Act?

The Crime Victims Compensation Act offers financial assistance for eligible victims of violent crime. Relatives of deceased victims in the State of Illinois may be eligible to receive compensation up to \$27,000, which includes a maximum of \$5,000 for funeral and burial expenses.

## What are Some of the Types of Expenses That May Be Covered for Relatives of Deceased Victims?

- **Funeral and Burial Costs.** All costs associated with the funeral and burial of the victim, including travel and transportation costs to survivors of homicide victims to secure bodies and transport them for burial. These expenses may be covered up to \$5,000. Any person who has paid for, or has become obligated to pay for, reasonable funeral and burial expenses should fill out a Crime Victim Compensation application. If a claim is eligible, compensation will be paid directly to any vendors with outstanding expenses.
- **Loss of Support.** Spouses and minor children (under the age of 18) who were dependent on the victim for financial support may also be eligible for loss of support. Loss of support is reimbursed at a maximum of \$1,000 per month until the amount set by law is reached. The spouse or the legal guardian of any minor children must apply to the Crime Victim Compensation Program.
- **Mental Health Treatment.** The parents of a homicide victim and any minor child or minor sibling of a homicide victim may be eligible for reimbursement of costs for psychological treatment related to the crime. Each parent and the legal guardians of the minors should fill out a separate Crime Victim Compensation application.
- **Other Expenses.** The parents of a homicide victim may be eligible for other incurred expenses, such as their own loss of earnings.

## What Violent Crimes are Eligible for Compensation?

Victims of first degree murder, second degree murder, involuntary manslaughter, reckless homicide, aggravated arson, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and pedestrian victims of hit and run incidents are eligible. Victims of other traffic incidents are not eligible.

## Does the Victim or Claimant Need to Be a U.S. Citizen?

No. The victim or claimant does not need to be a U.S. citizen to be eligible for compensation.

## **What are Some of the Requirements to Be Eligible for the Compensation Program?**

- ✓ The crime must be reported to law enforcement officials within 72 hours unless prevented by exceptional circumstances.
- ✓ The victim and claimant must cooperate with law enforcement officials in the apprehension and criminal prosecution of the offender.
- ✓ The claimant must cooperate with the Office of the Illinois Attorney General to verify information about the incident and to verify expenses.
- ✓ The claim must be filed, generally, within 2 years of the date of the crime or within 1 year of the criminal indictment, whichever is later.
- ✓ The crime must have occurred in Illinois. If the victim was an Illinois resident killed in a country without a Compensation Program, the victim's family may apply for compensation in Illinois.
- ✓ The victim must not have contributed to his/her injury by engaging in a wrongful act and the victim must not have substantially provoked the incident.

## **What Other Sources of Funding are Available to Help Cover Expenses?**

The Crime Victim Compensation Program is only available to cover expenses when all other sources of financial recovery have been exhausted. The victim's family must use any other funding sources before the Compensation Program, such as life insurance, Public Aid, medical insurance, etc.

## **How Does the Process Work? How Do You Obtain Referrals or Check Status of a Claim?**

To file an application, contact the Crime Victims Compensation Bureau at **1-800-228-3368 (Voice/TTY)** or download the application at [www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/victims/cvc.html](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/victims/cvc.html). Once the application is submitted, it will be given a claim number. The Office of the Illinois Attorney General will review the information on the application and will request additional information and documentation to determine if you are eligible for the Compensation Program. The Office of the Illinois Attorney General makes a recommendation to the Court of Claims and the Court of Claims will render a decision based on the application and the Office of the Illinois Attorney General's recommendation. A copy of the decision will be mailed to the claimant (the person who applied to the program). All payments are then issued by the Illinois Comptroller's Office.

If you have any questions about the Compensation Program or if you would like any referrals for counseling or other services, please contact our office at **1-800-228-3368 (Voice/TTY)** or visit our Web site at [www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov). Completed applications and other forms should be returned to:

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