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Office of the Illinois Attorney General

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Welcome to 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.

Office of the Attorney General

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Springfield, IL 62706

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Crime Victim
Services Division

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Transportation Amendments to Crime Victim Compensation

As of January 1, 2007, the Crime Victim Compensation Act has been amended to include the payment of transportation expenses to and from medical or treatment facilities. This exciting new amendment increases the amount of out of pocket payments the State of Illinois can reimburse to victims of violent crime. This provides reimbursement to victims for transportation costs incurred when traveling to and from hospitals, and medical, dental or counseling appointments. The methods of transportation covered by the statute include buses, trains, taxicabs or private vehicles.

The Attorney General's Office has drafted a new report which gathers all relevant information needed to make a recommendation for transportation expenses. This report will be sent to every victim that claims medical/hospital expenses on their application for compensation or in their communication with the AGs office.

To substantiate the claim, we first need evidence of an appointment or visit, which can be proven by bills, appointment cards, or other methods to show the victim was at the facility. Transport by a private vehicle will reflect the State of Illinois standard reimbursement rate of \$.445 per mile, to account for the price of gasoline and wear and tear on one's vehicle. For taxicab transport, receipts from the taxicab company will be needed. Bus and train transport will be calculated based on the local rates of public transportation where the victim lives and where the facility is located.

Compensation True or False

(An Opportunity to Brush Up on Your Compensation Knowledge)

1. True or False: A victim of a violent crime in the State of Illinois is automatically entitled to \$27,000 through the Crime Victim Compensation Act.

Answer: FALSE. The Act compensates innocent victims, or their legal guardians, for out of pocket expenses incurred as a result of the crime. The Act covers approximately 20 kinds of expenses, including, but not limited to medical, hospital, dental and counseling expenses, loss of earnings and support, and funeral and burial expenses, to name a few. To qualify for compensation, the victim must demonstrate that they have incurred one or more of the types of financial expenses covered in the Act, and that they are legally obligated to that amount. If the victim or legal guardian has paid any of these expenses, they will be reimbursed for their payments. If the financial loss is still outstanding with a healthcare provider or funeral homes, the Act allows the State of Illinois to pay the providers or funeral homes directly.

2. True or False: A compensation claim can only be filed if an offender has been apprehended and/or after the criminal trial is complete.

Answer: FALSE. A compensation claim must be filed within 2 years of the crime date, regardless of whether an offender has been apprehended or what the status of the criminal trial is. If the claim is filed outside of the two years, the claimant must show that they were under a legal disability that prevented them from filing within the 2 year time frame. A claimant has the right to apply until two years after their 18th birthday for crimes that occurred when they were minors.

Crime Victims' Rights Week

Crime Victims' Rights week is fast approaching. It will be held April 22-28, 2007.

This year's theme is:

Victims' Rights: Every Victim. Every Time.

There will be many events going on across the state to commemorate this year's event. If you know of anything going on in your community, elsewhere in the state, or have an idea of your own, please contact either Nicole Petruska at 312-814-3167 or Jennifer Brant at 312-793-0794.

An events listing for the state will be posted on the Illinois Attorney General's website at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov.

New Deputy Division Chief

Cindy Hora is the Deputy Chief of the Crime Victims Services Division. Cindy will explore and develop ways in which the Division can take a more active role in ensuring that the rights of crime victims are honored throughout the state.

Cindy graduated from Harvard Law School in 1980 and worked for the Illinois Supreme Court Research Department. She later moved to Alaska where she was a prosecutor with the Alaska Attorney General's Office for almost 20 years. Cindy represented the state at all levels of the state and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court. For more than five years, Cindy was the Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Division. She drafted legislation and testified before the Alaska legislature on legislation and the Criminal Division's budget. Cindy served as Chair and Vice-Chair of the statutorily-created Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, on the Board of Directors of the National District Attorneys Association, and on various court rules and bar committees, including the Criminal Rules Committee, the Appellate Rules Committee, the Continuing Legal Education Committee, and the Rules of Professional Conduct Committee. After spending three years in private practice, she returned to the public sector at the Alaska Office of Victims' Rights. Cindy represented crime victims and asserted their constitutional and statutory rights in Alaska's trial and appellate courts. In June 2006, the National Crime Victims Law Institute presented Cindy with a Legal Advocacy Award for her outstanding legal service on behalf of crime victims.

You can reach her at chora@atg.state.il.us or 312.814.3297.

Welcome!

Welcome to our new staff: Ryan Washabaugh, Robyn Henderson-Espinoza, and Maria (CoCo) Garcia. Ryan is a VCVA Office Assistant and he comes to us from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority where he did office assistant work. Robyn is a Claims Analyst, coming from Heartland Human Care Services where she was a Trauma Support Case Manager. And Maria is also a Claims Analyst; she was previously with the City of Chicago.

**All can be reached at:
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100 W. Randolph, 13th Floor
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Ryan: rwashabaugh@atg.state.il.us or 312-814-3378

Robyn: rhenderson@atg.state.il.us or 312-814-1553

Maria: mgarcia@atg.state.il.us or 312-814-7230

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)

FEBRUARY EVENTS:

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

February 5-9, 2007

Bloomington, IL

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

Elderly Service Officer Training

February 5-9, 2007

Champaign, IL

Contact Micah Roderick at 217-557-1982 for registration/additional information