

### **What is the Crime Victims Compensation Act?**

- An Illinois law that helps innocent victims of violent crime and their families pay for crime-related expenses (a maximum of \$27,000).

### **What is a violent crime for compensation purposes?**

- Domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse, stalking, sexual relations with family members, exploitation of a child, murder, involuntary manslaughter, reckless homicide, kidnapping, assault, battery, reckless conduct, driving under the influence, and arson.

### **Who is a victim of crime?**

- A person killed or injured as a result of a violent crime.
- A survivor of a victim of violent crime who depended on the victim for support.
- A parent whose child is the victim of a violent crime.
- A person under the age of 18 who is the brother, sister, half brother, half sister, child, or stepchild of a person who is the victim of violent crime.
- A relative of a victim who incurred reasonable funeral and/or medical expenses.
- A child who witnessed a violent crime committed against a relative.
- An individual who personally witnessed a violent crime (compensation for counseling expenses only).
- An Illinois resident who was a victim of violent crime in another state or country that does not offer compensation for crime victims.

### **What does compensation cover?**

- Covered expenses include: medical and hospital bills; funeral and burial; counseling; loss of earnings/support; tuition reimbursement; temporary lodging and relocation including, first month's rent and security deposit; crime scene clean-up; prosthetic devices; wheel chairs; eye glasses and hearing aids; and replacement costs for clothing/bedding used as evidence and locks and/or windows damaged during the crime.
- Except for clothing, bedding, locks, and windows, no compensation is available for property loss or damage, nor pain and suffering.

### **What do I have to do to be eligible for compensation?**

- Report the crime\* to law enforcement officials within 72 hours or for certain crimes including sexual assault, sexual assault of a child, and sexual abuse, within 7 days (unless unable to do so).  
\* Obtaining an order of protection or civil no contact order, or presenting oneself to a hospital for sexual assault evidence collection and medical care fulfills this requirement.
- Cooperate with law enforcement officials.
- File a compensation claim within 2 years of the crime. Victims under age 18 or under another legal disability may file within 2 years after attaining age 18 or after the disability is removed. Legal disability includes a diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder.
- Exhaust all other sources of financial remedy that are reasonably available, including but not limited to: health insurance, life insurance, Medicare, public aid, Workers' Compensation, Social Security benefits, and veterans' benefits.

### **How do I file a claim and what happens after I have filed?**

- Call the Crime Victims Compensation Bureau at (800) 228-3368.
- Complete an application and return it to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) within two years of the date of the crime.
- The OAG will investigate and verify information in the claim. All information will be kept confidential.
- The OAG will make a recommendation to the Illinois Court of Claims to either award or deny compensation to the applicant.
- The Court of Claims will make a decision based on the application and OAG's recommendation, or set a hearing for the claim.
- The Court of Claims will make the final decision on Crime Victims Compensation cases, copies of which are mailed to the applicant.

### **Is there emergency compensation?**

- The claimant may be eligible for emergency reimbursement of up to \$2000 and up to \$1000 for funeral and burial expenses, if the claimant can prove undue hardship.

### **What else do I need to know?**

- Neither the victim nor claimant has to be a U.S. citizen to be eligible for compensation.
- The applicant must not have contributed to the victim's injury or death by engaging in wrongful conduct or provocation.
- The applicant cannot be an offender or an accomplice of the offender.
- The compensation is not available in cash awards, but instead is distributed as a reimbursement for money spent.

For more information about the Crime Victims Compensation Program, crime victims services in Illinois, or to request an application, contact:

Crime Victims Assistance Line  
1-800-228-3368 (Voice/TTY), or  
Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan  
Crime Victims Compensation Bureau  
100 W. Randolph Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601  
(800) 228-3368  
[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov)

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# The Illinois Crime Victims Compensation Act:

## *What Survivors of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Should Know*

Funding for this material provided through the Illinois Violent Crime Victims Assistance Program, administered by the Illinois Attorney General. The views and statements herein do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Attorney General or the Illinois Violent Crime Victims Assistance Program.

Information in this brochure is current as of  
January 2006

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