

Compensation for Victims of Crime Program

Offering support, assistance and information.

What is the Compensation for Victims of Crime Program?

The Compensation for Victims of Crime Program provides compensation for personal injury or death resulting from certain crimes occurring within Manitoba. If you have been injured as a result of a crime, or are an immediate family member of a person who was killed due to a crime, you may be entitled to compensation. You may also be compensated if you were injured while helping a police officer or while trying to prevent a crime. To apply for compensation, there is no need for the offender to have been caught, but there must be a report made to the police.

How do I apply for compensation?

To apply for compensation, you must complete and return an Application for Compensation form. You should complete and submit your application as soon as possible. To be eligible for compensation, you must file within one year after the incident occurred. Application forms are available at the Compensation for Victims of Crime office or any victim services office.

What happens once I file a claim?

Most of the information needed to assess your claim is requested on the application form. The more detail you provide on the application, the more quickly your claim will be processed. Staff will obtain police, medical and wage loss information. After all relevant information is gathered, a decision will be made on your claim. You will be notified of this decision in writing.

What other sources of income are considered?

We must consider any money paid or payable to you from any other source in relation to your injury or a victim's death. This includes benefits received from other federal or provincial government programs such as the Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Workers Compensation and Employment and Income Assistance. It can also include any other public or private insurance plan, such as life, accident, sickness or disability insurance.

Compensation may be reduced or terminated if you receive benefits through another source. You may be required to reimburse the program if monies are received after compensation was paid.

Why might a claim be denied?

A claim may be denied if:

- The incident was not reported to the police within a reasonable amount of time after it occurred;
- The victim did not assist in the apprehension or prosecution of the offender;
- The victim's injury or death occurred while participating in a criminal offence;
- The victim's actions contributed directly or indirectly to his/her injury; or
- The claimant did not provide the requested information to our office within a reasonable amount of time.

What type of benefits am I eligible for?

Compensation may cover reasonable expenses resulting from the criminal incident. Eligible benefits can include:

- Payment of medical expenses (prescription drug costs, ambulance bills);
- Replacement of damaged clothing;
- Dental treatment, replacement or repair of dentures;
- Replacement or repair of prescription eyeglasses;
- Grief therapy or other counselling services;
- Compensation for lost wages if the victim is disabled or fatally injured;
- Support payments for dependants;
- Rehabilitation or retraining;
- Compensation for permanent disability; and
- Payment of funeral expenses.

Original estimates and/or receipts are needed to claim some expenses.

What losses are not covered by the Compensation for Victims of Crime Program?

- Compensation for pain and suffering;
- Stolen items and/or money;
- Loss or damages to property, including your car or home;
- Injuries received on the job when Workers Compensation is payable;
- Injuries arising from a motor vehicle accident;
- Injuries sustained outside Manitoba; and
- Benefits that are payable through other insurance plans or programs.

What if I disagree with the decision made on my claim?

If you disagree with the decision made on your claim, you may apply for reconsideration within 60 days. You can request, in writing, that the decision made on your claim be reviewed. If you are still dissatisfied after the reconsideration, you may then appeal the decision. Information on this appeal process will be included with the reconsideration letter.

Can I sue the offender while I'm receiving compensation?

The Compensation for Victims of Crime Program permits victims of crime to claim compensation and at the same time to sue the party responsible for their injury. If you have made a claim for compensation, you must notify program staff if you start legal action. You must also notify staff if you recover money directly from the person responsible for your injuries. If you receive a settlement, you may have to repay some or all of the benefits you received from the Compensation for Victims of Crime Program, after paying your legal fees. If you choose not to pursue legal action, the Compensation for Victims of Crime Program may conduct legal action, on your behalf, to help cover the costs of your compensation.

For more information, please contact:

Compensation for Victims of Crime Program

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www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/index.html