

# Compensation for Victims of Crime

## What is the Compensation for Victims of Crime Program?

The program gives compensation (money, services, support) to victims or witnesses who have been injured (physically or emotionally) because of certain crimes that occurred in Manitoba. It also gives compensation to the families and dependants of victims who died in a crime.

These crimes are outlined in the Victims' Rights Regulation of *The Victims' Bill of Rights Amendment Act*. For a copy of the act, go to: [www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/services/compensation.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/services/compensation.html).

**Note:** The Compensation for Victims of Crime Program only covers physical or emotional injury. It does not cover damaged or stolen property or belongings.

## Who can apply to this program?

You may **be eligible** for (able to use) this program if:

- you were injured or hurt in a crime
- you personally witnessed a crime
- someone in your family was a victim who died in a crime (the deceased victim)
- the crime was reported to the police as soon as possible after it happened
- you apply within one year of the crime

You are **NOT eligible** for (not able to get) compensation if:

- the crime did not happen in Manitoba
- the victim or witness has a serious criminal record
- the victim's death was caused by a motor vehicle incident

## How do I apply for compensation?

To apply for compensation (money, services, support), you must fill out the correct application form. Separate application forms are available for victims, immediate family members and witnesses. You can get the forms from the Compensation for Victims of Crime office in Winnipeg or the Victim Services office in your area.

## When can I apply for compensation?

Before you can apply for compensation (money, services, support), you must make sure the crime has been reported to police. Then, fill out an application form as soon as possible and return it to the Compensation for Victims of Crime office or Victim Services office in your area. It is important to file the form within one year after the crime.

## What happens after I file a claim?

Most of the details needed to assess your claim are asked for on the application. The more details you give, the faster your claim can be assessed.

Victim Services staff will get the necessary police, medical and income information relating to your claim. They will also check your criminal conviction history. A decision will then be made on your claim and a letter will be sent to you in the mail telling you if you are eligible for compensation.

## What is covered and how is it decided?

The Compensation for Victims of Crime Program covers costs such as medical expenses, counselling services, lost wages, rehabilitation and funeral expenses. For a complete list of eligible benefits for victims, immediate family members and witnesses see the fact sheets *Support for Victims*, *Support for Immediate Family Members* and *Support for Witnesses*.

Before deciding how much to cover, the program staff will consider other money you may get from anyone else because of the injury or death. This includes benefits from other federal or provincial government programs (ex: 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.

## Can the amount of my claim be reduced?

The amount of your claim **may** be reduced if:

- you are entitled to benefits from another source for your physical or emotional injury
- you, as the victim or witness, have been convicted of two or more crimes within the past five years

## Can a claim be denied?

A claim **may** be denied if:

- the crime was not reported to the police right after it happened
- the victim's actions directly or indirectly caused his/her own injury or death
- the victim was involved in a crime when the injury or death happened
- the victim did not help police or testify in court against the person who committed the crime (the alleged offender)
- the victim or witness was convicted of a serious crime in the past 10 years

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

If you disagree with the decision made on your claim, you may ask to have it reviewed within 60 days. To do this, you must send a letter to the Compensation for Victims of Crime Program (address below) or fill out a reconsideration form (available from the program office ) asking to have your claim reviewed.

If you still disagree with the decision after your claim has been reviewed, you may then file an appeal. Information on how to appeal the decision will be sent to you with the letter summarizing the review decision.

The Compensation for Victims of Crime Program is managed by Manitoba Justice, Victim Services Branch. **For more information** on the program, contact the program office in Winnipeg, or your local Victim Services office.

## Winnipeg

### Compensation for Victims of Crime Program

1410 - 405 Broadway Avenue

Winnipeg MB R3C 3L6

Phone: 204-945-0899 in Winnipeg

Toll free: 1-800-262-9344

Fax: 204-948-3071

Email : CVCP@gov.mb.ca

Web: [www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice/victims/index.html)

## Local Victim Services offices

For a list of local Victim Services offices across Manitoba, call toll free: 1-866-484-2846.