



Crime Hurts Everyone
WE CAN HELP



California Victim Compensation Board

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CONTACT CalVCB

For more information
call 800.777.9229
or visit victims.ca.gov





WHAT IS THE VICTIM COMPENSATION BOARD?

Established in 1965, the California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB) is a state program dedicated to providing reimbursement for many crime-related expenses to eligible victims who suffer physical injury or the threat of physical injury as a direct result of a violent crime.



HOW CAN I GET HELP LOCALLY?

Victim Witness Assistance Center advocates throughout the state work directly with CalVCB to assist victims in applying for compensation and navigating the criminal justice system.

Contact a victim advocate and find additional victim resources and services in your county by visiting our Local Help page at victims.ca.gov/victims/localhelp.aspx.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR VICTIM COMPENSATION?

CalVCB can help victims of a qualifying crime such as:

- Assault
- Child Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Drunk Driving
- Elder Abuse
- Hate Crimes
- Homicide
- Human Trafficking
- Online Harassment
- Robbery
- Sexual Assault
- Stalking
- Vehicular Manslaughter

CalVCB can help victims and their families when the crime occurs in California. CalVCB can also help California residents who become victims while in another state or country.

CalVCB may be able to assist additional persons impacted by the crime including:

- Spouse or domestic partner
- Children
- Parents
- Legal guardians
- Anyone who assumes legal or financial liability for a deceased victim's expenses
- Child witness
- Brothers and sisters
- Grandparents
- Grandchildren
- Person living in the same household as the victim for no less than two years or at the time of the crime





WHAT IF A CHILD WITNESSES A VIOLENT CRIME?

Children under the age of 18 who suffer emotional injuries as a result of witnessing a violent crime may qualify for mental health counseling benefits, even if they are unrelated to the crime victim. The minor witness must have been in close proximity to the crime.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR VICTIM COMPENSATION?

- Report the crime to the police, sheriff, child protective services or any other law enforcement agency.
- Apply to CalVCB within three years of the date of the crime (for applications received on or after January 1, 2013).
- Minor victims (under 18) can apply up to their 21st birthday. For minors who are victims of sexual assault, the application can be filed anytime up to their 28th birthday.
- Reasonably cooperate with law enforcement during the investigation and prosecution of the crime.
- Cooperate with CalVCB by providing the information needed to review the application and expenses.
- Cannot have been involved in the events leading up to the crime.



WHAT EXPENSES CAN CaIVCB HELP PAY?

CaIVCB may help pay for crime-related expenses such as:

- Medical and dental treatment
- Mental health services
- Income loss
- Funeral and burial expenses
- Loss of support for dependents when a victim is killed or permanently disabled
- Residential security
- Relocation
- Crime scene clean up
- Home or vehicle modifications for victims who became disabled
- Medical equipment

There are limits on how much can be paid for each loss.

WHAT EXPENSES CANNOT BE PAID BY CaIVCB?

- Expenses not related to the crime
- Expenses paid by insurance or another source of reimbursement or coverage
- Expenses for lost, stolen or damaged property

CaIVCB cannot pay for expenses incurred while a person is on parole, probation or post-release community supervision for a violent felony, incarcerated or required by law to register as a sex offender.

WHAT IF I NEED FINANCIAL HELP IMMEDIATELY?

In certain situations, CaIVCB can provide the applicant with emergency financial assistance within 30 days. For example, you may qualify for emergency assistance if your personal safety is at risk and you need to relocate. Necessary documentation must be provided in a timely manner.

WILL CaIVCB PAY FOR MY RELOCATION EXPENSES?

CaIVCB can help pay moving expenses such as first and last month's rent, deposits and temporary lodging if a victim needs to relocate for personal safety or emotional well-being.

Relocation forms are available at victims.ca.gov. Local victim advocates can assist with this process.

WHAT IF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT IS LOST, STOLEN OR DESTROYED?

CaIVCB can pay for medically necessary items such as wheelchairs, walkers, eyeglasses and dentures that are lost, stolen or broken during the crime or that become necessary due to the crime.

WHAT IF AN INSURANCE COMPANY OR OTHER SOURCE PAYS FOR CRIME-RELATED EXPENSES?

CalVCB is the payor of last resort and can only reimburse victims for crime-related expenses if there are no other sources of reimbursement. If CalVCB reimburses a victim for losses, but another source of funding becomes available to the victim because of the same qualifying incident, CalVCB is entitled to reimbursement.

CalVCB works with insurance companies to determine how much of the bill qualifies for payment. Only expenses that insurance companies or other sources do not pay can be considered for payment, which may include co-pays, deductibles and share of cost payments.

HOW DOES CaIVCB PAY MY BILLS OR EXPENSES?

CalVCB is a payor of last resort and must verify all other reimbursement sources.

CalVCB will correspond with providers to verify all bills are related to the crime, apply payment rates and, in most cases, pay the provider directly for medical and mental health related expenses.

If the victim missed work due to an injury from a crime and is applying for wage loss, CalVCB requires information from the employer and a disability statement from a healthcare provider. If the victim is self-employed, CalVCB requires two years of tax returns. If the victim already paid the expense prior to filing an application with CalVCB, they will be reimbursed directly.

If CalVCB paid the provider and the provider cashed the check, the provider cannot ask the victim to pay more money toward that bill. If the victim is asked to pay any money for a bill that the Board already paid, the victim advocate should be made aware, or the victim should call CalVCB at **800.777.9229**.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR VICTIM COMPENSATION?

- Contact your local Victim Witness Assistance Center at **victims.ca.gov/victims/localhelp.aspx**. A victim advocate can help victims complete and submit an application, and help victims learn more about the criminal justice system.
- Call CalVCB at **800.777.9229**
- Download an application at **victims.ca.gov**
- Email CalVCB at **info@victims.ca.gov**



WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH MY APPLICATION?

When available, a copy of:

- Medical insurance card
- Medical records documenting injuries caused by the crime, if applicable
- Medical, dental or mental health bills directly related to the crime
- Any receipts that verify payment of crime-related bills or expenses
- Full crime report if available

Submit bills and inquiries to:

CalVCB

P.O. Box 3036

Sacramento, CA 95812-3036





CAN I RECEIVE COURT-ORDERED RESTITUTION AND CalVCB ASSISTANCE?

Yes, judges may order restitution from offenders on behalf of all victims who suffer a financial loss as the result of a crime. Victims will want to work with their victim advocate, deputy district attorney and/or county probation office to submit crime-related expenses so the judge can order restitution.

There are two types of restitution: orders and fines. A fine is an amount, determined by the type of crime committed, that the offender has to pay as their debt to society. Crimes including homicide, drug charges, sexual assault and kidnapping are subject to felony restitution fines from \$200 to \$10,000. Fines go directly to the State's Restitution Fund to provide for victim compensation.

An order is the amount determined by the judge, with help from the victim and prosecutor, which is to be paid directly to the victim or family for the actual costs of the crime. If the offender is convicted, the court must issue a restitution order requiring them to pay the victim for actual financial losses resulting from the crime.

Often, victims have expenses from the crime that require payment before restitution is available from offenders. CalVCB can provide financial assistance for qualified expenses until restitution becomes available, at which point CalVCB must be reimbursed.

DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL?

Yes, if you disagree with the recommendation to deny eligibility or an expense, you may file an appeal within 45 days. You do not need an attorney to file an appeal. For more information, please visit our website at victims.ca.gov or call **800.777.9229**.

ARE MY CLAIMS CONFIDENTIAL?

Yes, all claims filed with CalVCB are confidential, except as required by law. CalVCB only discloses victim information with written permission. If the victim is a child or an incapacitated adult, the written permission must be provided by a parent, guardian or other person legally authorized to represent the victim.





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All languages accommodated.
Deaf and hard of hearing:
Please call the California
Relay Services at 711.

