How to Apply for Victim Compensation

Liddie Shropshire, Director Victim Compensation Services N.C. Department of Public Safety May 2023





Victims Come from All Walks of Life





Who Are We?



Director Liddie Shropshire

Office of Victim Compensation Services Department of Public Safety

Since 1987, we have helped victims and their families regain their lives and their financial stability as they heal from the devastating effects of criminal violence.



We Provide Resources to Help Put Life Back Together

Our office accepts applications for payment of eligible expenses and lost wages that result from being an innocent victim of a violent crime committed in North Carolina. Crimes include:

- Sexual assault
- Domestic violence
- Elder abuse
- DWI/DUI
- Pedestrian hit and run

- Homicide
- Assault and battery
- Stalking
- Other violent crimes



How Do We Help Victims of Violent Crime?

Our English- and Spanish-speaking claims specialists help victims understand their eligibility for benefits and apply for financial assistance.



More than
2,400
calls for
support each
month



More than
300
applications
filed each
month



More than

2,300 applications approved in FY2022



More than \$6.8M distributed in FY2022



Eligibility and Application Requirements



Who Is Eligible to Apply?

Victims of violent crime who meet these requirements:

- Crime occurred in North Carolina
- Victim contacted law enforcement or applied for a warrant
- Victim sustained a direct injury physical or psychological
- Victim received eligible services or lost income within 1 year
- Victim was NOT committing a crime at the time of injury

Note: Victims do NOT need to be North Carolina residents.



What Actions Do Applicants Need to Take?

- 1. Download the application, or call to request a copy by mail.
- 2. Complete and sign the application.
- 3. Attach supporting documents.
- 4. Mail the application to our office.

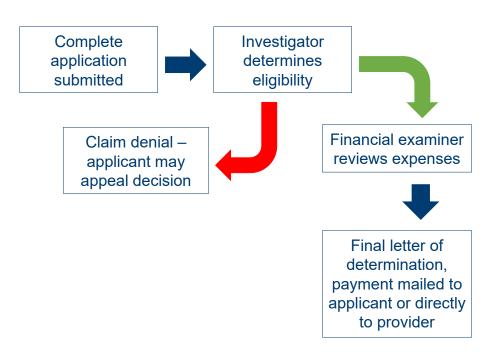




What Happens Once You Apply?

Our office reviews applications and may contact you to make referrals or request more information.

To avoid delays, make sure our office has your contact information, and respond to all messages from our office.





Compensation Guidelines



What Compensation Services May Cover

The compensation program reimburses out-of-pocket costs of eligible services and may compensate for lost wages or financial support.

Families of victims may also be eligible for compensation of funeral expenses and counseling.

\$45,000

Maximum reimbursement per applicant



Payer of Last Resort

The Office of Victim Compensation Services provides financial assistance only for eligible expenses or lost wages not paid by sources such as:

- Auto, disability, health and home insurance
- Public funds such as Medicaid
- Sick or annual leave paid by an employer
- Worker compensation
- Restitution paid by an offender



Medical, Counseling and **Dental Expenses**

Victims who sustain physical or psychological injury may submit expenses from certified providers of medical, dental or counseling services.

- Copy of police report
- Itemized bills





Funeral Expense Benefit

Families of homicide victims may apply for up to \$10,000 for the burial, cremation and transportation of the body of their loved one.

- Death certificate
- Itemized funeral bill





Loss of wages

Victims who are employed at the time of injury and are not able to work may apply for lost wages.

- Pay stub prior to injury
- Doctor statement
- Employer statement confirming employment status, leave benefits, and wages per year or per hour





Loss of Household Support

Unemployed victims who are married to a domestic violence offender and who have dependent children may be eligible for support.

- Law enforcement report
- Third-party confirmation of eligible children





Crime Scene Cleanup

Payments to a certified biohazard cleanup company may include repair of doors, locks and windows; cleanup of blood stains.

- Signed and itemized contract
- Insurance claim





Questions?

ncdps.gov/4victims 800.826.6200

