

RESOURCES

If you are a crime victim, you have certain rights under Massachusetts Law, and you are eligible for certain services.

For further information about victim rights and victim services, contact the victim witness program in your local District Attorney's office or one of the statewide agencies listed below.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAMS

Berkshire County	(413) 443-3500
Bristol County	(508) 997-0711
Cape and Islands	(508) 362-8103
Essex County	(978) 745-6610
Hampden County	(413) 747-1038
Middlesex County	(781) 897-8490
Norfolk County	(781) 830-4800
Northwestern District	(413) 586-5780
Plymouth County	(508) 584-8120
Suffolk County	(617) 619-4000
Worcester County	(508) 755-8601

STATEWIDE VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance
(617) 727-5200 • www.mass.gov/mova

Department of Corrections
(866) 684-2846 • www.mass.gov/doc

Department of Criminal Justice Information System
(617) 660-4690 • www.mass.gov/cjis

Department of Youth Services
(617) 960-3290 • www.mass.gov/dys

Massachusetts Parole Board
(508) 650-4500 • www.mass.gov/parole

Sex Offender Registry Board
(978) 740-6440 • www.mass.gov/sorb

United States Attorney's Office
(617) 748-3100 • www.usdoj.gov/usao/ma

VICTIM COMPENSATION

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME IN
THE COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
MARTHA COAKLEY
VICTIM COMPENSATION & ASSISTANCE DIVISION

One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-2200 ext. 2160
(617) 727-4765 TTY
(617) 742-6262 Fax
www.mass.gov/ago/vcomp

A MESSAGE FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL MARTHA COAKLEY

Violent crime impacts every aspect of a person's life. The resulting physical and psychological injuries can affect a person's ability to work, go to school, and meet their own individual goals

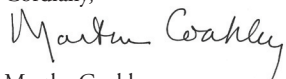


and aspirations. Often victims may require treatment to address the injuries caused by the violent acts of another. The monetary expenses incurred – after losing a loved one, for medical and dental care, for psychological assistance, and by injuries resulting in a disability to work – should not serve to further victimize those who are affected by violent crime.

As Attorney General, I am committed to empowering crime victims and providing them with the tools and support they need to begin the healing process. Our Victim Compensation and Assistance Division is one resource that works diligently to make this happen. We are able to provide financial assistance to eligible victims of violent crime for uninsured medical and dental care, mental health counseling, funeral and burial costs, and income lost due to the inability to work. Victims of crimes that occurred on or after November 5, 2010, may, in addition, be eligible to receive financial assistance relating to additional expenses. Our division uses funds primarily obtained from perpetrators, and can assist with expenses up to a maximum of \$25,000 per crime. My experienced staff will assist you in understanding your rights as a crime victim, determining what expenses may be eligible for compensation, and assessing what other resources are available to assist you.

If you or a loved one has been the victim of violent crime, please take some time to read this brochure and contact our Victim Compensation and Assistance Division staff for further assistance.

Cordially,



Martha Coakley
Massachusetts Attorney General

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Victims of violent crime occurring in Massachusetts
- Dependents and family members of homicide victims
- Any person responsible for the funeral expenses of a homicide victim

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- The crime must have been reported to police within five days unless there is good cause for delay.
- You must cooperate with law enforcement officials in the investigation and prosecution of the crime unless there is a reasonable excuse not to cooperate.
- You must apply for compensation within three years of the crime. Victims under the age of 18 at the time of the crime may apply until age 21, or later in certain limited circumstances.

WHICH EXPENSES ARE COVERED?

To the extent insurance or other funds do not cover your crime-related expenses, you may be reimbursed for:

- Medical and dental expenses (including equipment, supplies and medications)
- Counseling expenses (for victims, for family members of homicide victims, and for children who witness violence against a family member)
- Funeral/burial costs up to \$4,000
- Lost wages (for victims only)
- Loss of financial support (for dependents of homicide victims)
- Homemaker expenses
- Expenses not covered: property losses, compensation for pain and suffering, and all other losses

Additional expenses for crimes that occurred on or after November 5, 2010:

- Ancillary funeral/burial
- Replacement bedding/clothing
- Crime scene cleanup
- Forensic Sexual Assault Exam
- Security measures
- Counseling for non-offending parents of a child victim

HOW DO I APPLY?

- Complete the application and return it to the Victim Compensation and Assistance Division for verification. In general, you will receive a decision four to six months later.
- Your claim can be reopened for future expenses.

VC#

Please print legibly and fill out both sides.

I. VICTIM INFORMATION

Victim's name: _____ Female: _____ Male: _____
Mailing address: _____ Home phone: (____) _____
City/State: _____ Zip: _____ Cell phone: (____) _____
Date of birth: ____/____/____ Age at time of incident: _____ SSN: _____-_____-_____

II. APPLICANT INFORMATION If victim is applicant, write "same." If under 18, application must be completed by parent/guardian.

Applicant's name: _____ Female: _____ Male: _____
Mailing address: _____ Home phone: (____) _____
City/State: _____ Zip: _____ Cell phone: (____) _____
Date of birth: ____/____/____ Relationship to victim: _____ SSN: _____-_____-_____

If filing on behalf of minor dependent(s) of homicide victim, relationship to minor dependent(s): _____

III. CRIME INFORMATION Type of crime:

- Armed robbery, Arson, Assault, Child physical or sexual assault, Domestic violence, Drunk driving, Other vehicular crimes, Homicide, Kidnapping, Sexual assault, Stalking, Other: _____

Exact location of crime: _____ City/State: _____

Date of crime: ____/____/____ Date crime was reported: ____/____/____ If not reported within 5 days, please explain why in an attached statement.

Name of police department: _____ Investigating officer: _____

Name(s) of person(s) who committed crime (if known): _____

If you have been assisted by a victim advocate in the court/district attorney's office, provide the name and telephone number of advocate: _____

If no police report is attached, briefly describe the crime and any injuries which resulted: _____

IV. EXPENSES Check types of expenses for which you seek compensation.

- Medical services*, Lost wages (for victim only), Counseling for victim*, Medical supplies/pharmacy*, Loss of financial support (for dependents of homicide victims), Counseling for family members of homicide victim*, Dental services*, Funeral/burial*†, Counseling for children who witness violence against a family member*, Replacement homemaker services*

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES FOR CRIMES THAT OCCURRED ON OR AFTER NOVEMBER 5, 2010

- Ancillary funeral/burial expenses*, Crime scene cleanup*, Security Measures*, Replacement bedding/clothing*, Forensic Sexual Assault Exam associated expenses*, Counseling for non-offending parents of a child victim*

*Attach copies of bills and/or receipts.

† Name of funeral home: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

V. LOST INCOME Complete if seeking lost wages or loss of support.

Victim's employer: _____ Contact person: _____

Mailing address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

If victim has or will return to work, estimated period of disability: _____

If requesting financial support for dependent(s) of a homicide victim, provide the following information:

Name(s) of dependent(s)	Date of birth	SSN	Relationship to victim
_____	____/____/____	____-____-____	_____
_____	____/____/____	____-____-____	_____
_____	____/____/____	____-____-____	_____
_____	____/____/____	____-____-____	_____

VI. OTHER SOURCES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE Check all potential sources of full or partial payment of expenses.

- Health insurance
- Hospital-based "free care"
- Workers' compensation
- Life/accident insurance
- Unemployment benefits
- Restitution
- Automobile insurance
- Disability benefits
- Public benefits (welfare, Medicare, Medicaid, SSDI)
- Other (specify): _____

Name of applicable insurance companies: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____ Policy No.: _____

Have you file or do you intend to file a civil lawsuit? Yes: _____ No: _____ Not sure: _____

If yes, attorney's name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

VII. OPTIONAL INFORMATION For statistical purposes only.

- Race/ethnicity of victim:
- White/Caucasian
 - Hispanic
 - Native American
 - I decline to answer this question
 - Black/African-American
 - Asian/Pacific-Islander
 - Other

Who referred you to Victim Compensation? _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND INFORMATION RELEASE

I understand that the Victim Compensation Fund is a fund of last resort. I agree to inform the Division of any funds I receive from any source for losses for which I have requested compensation, and agree to promptly reimburse the Commonwealth for any such funds awarded to me or on my behalf. If an award is made, I authorize the Division to make payments directly to the provider of services if I fail to respond within 3 months of the date on the Notice of Award.

I give permission to any hospital, medical facility, doctor, mental health provider, insurance company, employer, person or agency, including state and federal agencies, to give information to the Victim Compensation and Assistance Division. I understand that the information will be used to determine my claim for victim compensation benefits. I do not authorize the use or release of this information to any person or entity for any other purpose. A photocopy of this signed release is as valid as the original. This authorization shall expire upon final determination of all requirements under M.G.L. c. 258C and 940 CMR 14.00.

I certify, under the pains and penalties of perjury, that all information and supporting documentation contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Applicant signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent or guardian if victim is a minor.