

Victim Compensation

If you have been physically or emotionally injured as the result of a crime, or a member of your family has been killed as a result of a crime, you may be eligible for compensation for your financial losses. Losses directly related to the **compensable crime** are eligible for reimbursement and may include: medical expenses, mental health expenses, lost wages, loss of support to dependants, residential property damage to exterior windows, locks and doors, and funeral expenses.

Compensation Eligibility Requirements (C.R.S. §24-4.1-108)

- The crime must be one in which the victim sustains mental or bodily injury, dies, or suffers property damage to locks, windows, or doors to residential property **as a result of a compensable crime**.
- The victim must cooperate with law enforcement officials (district attorney, police).
- The police were notified within 72 hours after the crime occurred.
- The injury or death of the victim was not the result of the victim's own wrongdoing or substantial provocation.
- The victimization occurred on or after July 1, 1982.
- The application for compensation must be submitted within one year from the date of the crime or within six months for property damage claims.

Note: The Compensation Board may waive some of these requirements for good cause or in the interest of justice.

Please contact the Victim Advocate for an application.

Compensable Losses

Losses directly related to the compensable crime are eligible for reimbursement and include:

- Medical expenses
- Mental health expenses
- Lost wages
- Loss of support to dependants
- Funeral expenses
- Residential property damage, including security doors

Where do the funds come from?

Funds to pay crime victim compensation claims do not come from taxpayers. These funds are collected from fines from criminals convicted of felony, misdemeanor, and some traffic offenses.

What is the difference between Restitution and Compensation?

Compensation is monies paid for expenses related to the crime by each Judicial District in the state of Colorado through the Crime Victims' Compensation Program. Glendale is in the 18th Judicial District.

Restitution is court ordered payment from the offender to cover expenses related to the crime.

Restitution

Restitution is a court ordered payment by offenders to victims for expenses resulting from crime. As a general guideline, restitution can be ordered for the following:

- Medical bills
- Property repair or replacement
- Counseling
- Burial/funeral expenses
- Lost wages

Restitution can be ordered directly to victims, service providers, or to organizations that paid bills for the victim.

How Do I Request Restitution?

Submit the bills and other documents showing the amount of restitution to be considered by the court to the prosecuting attorney.

If you have not been contacted by an advocate at the prosecuting attorney's office, call immediately. Keep your advocate or the prosecuting attorney aware of the expenses if you have not received your finalized bill.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Most criminal cases are resolved by plea agreements. Plea agreements can occur within days of the actual crime. **You must turn in this information as soon as possible.** Offenders that have already been sentenced cannot be ordered to pay restitution.

What Information Should I Provide?

Copies of bills/receipts for medical, dental, counseling, or related expenses
Employer statements that document unpaid time off
Documentation that estimates value of stolen property
Copies of insurance claims and deductible amounts
Receipts for rental or related costs for equipment needed due to injuries

If you are unsure as to whether restitution can be ordered for a loss, submit it and the judge will make the determination. Payments are received and paid out by the clerk of the court.

What Cannot Be Covered By Restitution?

Payment for pain and suffering or emotional distress cannot be ordered by a criminal court. You should consult with a civil or private attorney if you are interested in being compensated for these losses.

You may not receive both Victim's Compensation AND Restitution for the same expenses. If you receive restitution, you must pay back the Victim Compensation funds if you received them.