

New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
2004 Domestic Violence Handbook

Crime Victims Compensation

As a victim of domestic violence, you may be able to receive compensation for certain expenses you have had to pay, and for which you will not be reimbursed. In order to be eligible for compensation from the Crime Victims Board you must have filed a police report, family offense petition, Child Protective Services report or other criminal justice report against the perpetrator of the crime committed against you. Compensation is available solely to the victim of a crime, unless otherwise specified.

You may be eligible if:

- you have sustained personal physical injury as a result of a crime (sexual assault is considered physical injury);
- you are a child victim or child witness of a crime (under age 18) or his/her parent, guardian or sibling;
- you are elderly (60 or older), a minor (under 18) or disabled victim of a crime who has suffered a loss of or damage to essential personal property (cash, food, clothing, purse/wallet, eyeglasses, etc);
- you are a surviving spouse, parent, child, or person dependent upon a victim who has died as a direct result of a crime;
- you have paid or are responsible for the burial expenses of an innocent victim who has died as a direct result of a crime;
- you are the victim of a sex offense;
- you are a victim of stalking;
- you are the spouse, child or stepchild of a victim of a crime who has suffered physical injury.

Compensation **MAY** cover:

- loss of essential personal property;
- lost earnings or support;
- medical expenses not covered by insurance;
- counseling services not covered by insurance for you and your immediate family members, including stepfamily and grandparents;
- job training or occupational rehabilitation expenses;
- security devices if you are a victim of stalking;
- transportation for court appearances;
- cost of staying at a domestic violence shelter;
- crime scene cleanup expenses.

It takes several months to a year to receive compensation, but in some cases you may be eligible for emergency assistance. You can contact your local domestic violence program or the New York State Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-942-6906 to see if you are eligible for crime victims' compensation.