

Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) Program

Administered by the Missouri Department of Public Safety, Office for Victims of Crime (10/2021)

The mission of the Missouri Department of Public Safety is to protect life and property by providing services to all Missourians in cooperation with citizens, public safety agencies, and other public and private entities. Through partnerships, professionalism, and adherence to core values, DPS strives to provide a safe and secure Missouri for all citizens and visitors.

ELIGIBILITY

The CVC program provides compensation to eligible individuals and their family members who are victims of certain violent crimes. Basic criteria required to determine eligibility include:

- Crime must have occurred in Missouri;
- Crime must be reported to the proper authorities;
- Victim/claimant must cooperate with law enforcement;
- Victim must not have contributed to their injury
- Victim must not have been in the commission of a crime;
- Application must be received within two (2) years of the date of the crime or discovery of the crime;
- An arrest or conviction of a suspect is not required.

ALLOWABLE COSTS

Allowable benefits may include medical, funeral and counseling expenses, lost wages or loss of support for eligible victims and their family members. Professional service providers are paid directly for eligible crime service. If victim/claimant has paid out-of-pocket they may be reimbursed, if eligible. The maximum benefit levels are \$5,000 for funeral expenses and up to \$400/per week for lost wages. The total maximum benefit is \$25,000.





COLLATERAL SOURCES

CVC is a payor of last resort. Compensation is only available for crime related financial losses not covered by other collateral sources such as:

- Insurance
- Restitution
- Medicaid/Medicare
- Civil Suit (personal injury or wrongful death)
- Crowdsourcing (fundraisers)
- Donations
- Workers' Compensation
- Paid sick or annual leave

DOCUMENTATION

Submitting the application and required attachments is the first step in the CVC process. The primary documentation required to apply includes:

-  **CVC Application**, must be signed by the Victim/Claimant
-  **Crime Related Medical, Dental, Counseling and/or Funeral Bill**
-  **Employment Information**, if applicable
-  **Death Certificate**, if applicable

BEFORE APPLYING

- Review the CVC Guidelines, Application and Instructions
- Complete the entire CVC application
- Attach all required documents
- Make sure you the application date is within 2 years of crime date or the date of discovery of the crime

UNALLOWABLE REQUESTS

- Rent/Mortgage
- Utilities
- Tuition
- Pain and Suffering
- Food/Clothing
- Identity Theft
- Investment Scheme Losses
- Stolen/Damaged Property

**NOTE: There are other unallowable requests, this list does not include all unallowable costs.*

APPLICATION INTAKE & REVIEW

Applications are reviewed upon receipt. The victim/claimant will receive written acknowledgement of receipt. The first step is to determine eligibility.

CVC initiates requests for supporting documentation from third parties (i.e., law enforcement, medicaid, prosecutors, if applicable, and others to support the claim. CVC may contact any provider to verify actual out-of-pocket expenses and request documentation from collateral sources, if applicable.

After supporting information is received, CVC reviews the claim(s) and all supporting documentation. If the claim(s) are determined to be ineligible, a denial letter outlining the ineligibility reason is sent to the victim/claimant.

If the claim(s) is determined eligible, CVC will send the victim/claimant a letter with further instructions related to any offer of compensation. To accept the offer, the victim claimant must sign the offer and return it to initiate payment.

CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The CVC Program financially assists people who have sustained physical, emotional, or mental harm or trauma resulting from violent crime occurring in Missouri. If the eligibility requirements are met, potential benefits may include costs associated with the patient's crime-related medical, dental, and counseling. If the victim was gainfully employed at the time of the crime, they may also be eligible for lost wages. If a victim was killed as a direct result of the crime, CVC may also help the victim's family members by assisting with the cost of funeral and burial expenses as well as loss of support to the victim's dependents if the victim was gainfully employed at the time of the crime.

To be eligible for assistance with CVC, the crime must be reported to the proper authorities. In addition to law enforcement, in the case of a sexual offense, filing a report of the offense to the proper authorities may include, but not be limited to, the filing of the report of the forensic examination by the appropriate medical provider with the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the alleged incident occurred, receiving a forensic examination, or securing an order of protection.

Eligibility through the CVC Program is not guaranteed and cannot be determined until a completed application is submitted for review and the Program has completed a thorough assessment of the crime and expenses for which compensation is being sought.

For more information about either the SAFE or CVC Programs please visit the [Crime Victims' Compensation \(CVC\) Program](#) website, call **573-526-6006** or **1-800-347-6881** or email cvc@dps.mo.gov.