

**WYOMING OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM
APPLICATION**



Before completing the application for compensation, please read the instructions and the definitions of the types of losses available for compensation. If you need assistance, you may contact the staff of the Division of Victim Services, Compensation Program at the following:

(307) 777-7200

1-888-996-8816 (Toll Free for Victims)

***E-mail:* vssi@state.wy.us *Website:* vssi.state.wy.us**

General Information/Instructions:

- Please type or print clearly in blue or black ink.
- Attach all bills, receipts, estimates, or provide contact information, for verification of the expense amounts.
- If you have not received a letter or phone call from our office within 30 days after mailing in your application, please call toll-free 1-800-996-8816 or send an e-mail to inquire about the status of your claim. If you change your address you **MUST** notify the division.
- You do not need to wait for your case to go to trial or for the defendant to be apprehended before applying for compensation. If you do not know the status of your case, you have the right to contact law enforcement or the prosecutor's office.
- If you have not been informed of your rights as a victim of crime, please contact our agency.
- A federal crime is an incident occurring within a national park, military base, an Indian reservation, etc. or is investigated by federal law enforcement agencies, such as the F.B.I.
- The maximum benefits for a claim may not exceed \$15,000 and can be paid for two calendar years from the date of the crime.
- The law does not allow compensation for property loss or pain and suffering.

A person is eligible for compensation if:

- The injury or death occurred as a result of a crime.
- The person was attempting to prevent the commission of a criminal act or apprehend a person committing a crime.
- The person was assisting law enforcement, or a victim of a crime.
- The crime was reported to law enforcement and the victim cooperated fully with the investigation and prosecution of the crime.
- The victim's conduct did not contribute to the injury or death.
- An application is filed within one (1) year of the date of the crime.
- The compensation will not benefit the offender in any way.

Expenses covered under Crime Victim Compensation:

- A. MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH** - The cost of medical and dental services, mental health counseling, prescriptions, prosthetic devices, eyeglass, dentures, physical therapy and services rendered in accordance with any method of healing recognized by the law of this state. Elderly victims of fraud are eligible for mental health counseling.
- B. LOSS OF EARNINGS** - The victim must be employed on the date of the crime. Victims who are self-employed may be required to submit additional information for verifying lost wages or loss of support. Loss of earnings is compensated at the federal minimum wage. Collateral sources such as vacation or sick pay must be used before lost wages will be compensated.
- C. LOSS OF SUPPORT** – Victim or offender must be employed on the date of the crime. May be awarded to dependents of a deceased victim or dependents of an offender who is no longer contributing to the support of the family. Loss of support is compensated at the federal minimum wage.
- D. HOMEMAKER/CHILDCARE REPLACEMENT** - Expenses resulting from the injured victims inability to perform daily tasks or necessary duties. (Examples: childcare, meal preparation, house cleaning, convalescent care.)
- E. FUNERAL/BURIAL** - Funeral related expenses: (Examples: burial or cremation costs, headstone, flowers, clergy costs, musician/soloist fees, cultural exchanges etc.) Maximum benefit \$5,000.00.
- F. OTHER EXPENSES** - Crime scene clean-up, travel costs, replacement of personal items taken as evidence. Attach itemized lists/bills/receipts.
- G. RELOCATION EXPENSES** – Expenses to relocate a victim to another community or state due to a threat of personal injury. Expenses for relocation, if the crime scene was the home of the victim (homicide and sexual assaults only.) Examples: U/Haul, gas, mileage, per diems. Threat must be verified in writing by law enforcement, prosecuting attorney, or any agency with statutory authority.
- H. CATASTROPHIC INJURY** - May be awarded to a victim if they have sustained partial or permanent disability (loss of eyesight, hearing, or limbs) as a result of crime. A physician must verify this loss. The maximum catastrophic award is \$10,000. This award can be in addition to the overall award of \$15,000.
- I. ASSOCIATED VICTIMS** - If immediate family or household members, other than the victim are seeking compensation for counseling or other economic loss, please request an associated victim's application from your victim advocate.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Crime Victims Compensation is payor of last resort. Before compensation may be awarded, all collateral sources must be exhausted. Examples of collateral sources are Social Security, health insurance, life insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, Indian Health Service, vacation, or sick pay.