This pamphlet is intended to provide a general outline of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program. The information in the pamphlet is subject to legislative change and judicial interpretation. It does not supersede nor restrict procedures or authority established under state statute. The statutes governing the program are contained in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 29, Chapter 13. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Tennessee Treasury Department
Division of Claims Administration
502 Deaderick St
Nashville, TN 37243-0202
(615) 741-2734
Fax (615) 532-4979
Forms and information are available at: www.treasury.tn.gov/injury

INNOCENT VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME IN TENNESSEE MAY QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE WITH CERTAIN EXPENSES

YOU MAY QUALIFY IF YOU ARE:

• the victim of the crime (the person who received the injury)
• a dependent of a deceased victim
• the administrator of the victim’s estate
• someone who was injured trying to prevent a crime or apprehend the criminal
• a relative responsible for funeral or burial costs (see eligible relatives)
• a relative of a homicide victim who has received mental health counseling (see eligible relatives)
• a victim’s child who has received counseling as a result of witnessing domestic violence against the victim
• the sibling or parent of a victim of child sex abuse who has received counseling as a result of the offender’s abuse of the victim

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY RULES?

• The crime must be reported within 48 hours to authorities (unless the victim is a minor child or there is a good cause).
• The crime must happen in Tennessee.
• The victim’s actions cannot contribute to the crime.
• The victim/claimant must cooperate with police and efforts to prosecute.
• An application must be filed within one year of the date of injury or death (unless the victim or a dependent is a minor or there is a good cause).
• There must be an eligible expense. This program is a fund of last resort, so it does not consider any costs that are covered by another source.

WHAT EXPENSES MAY BE ELIGIBLE?

Medical Bills/Mental Health Counseling
This includes medical expenses directly related to the injury from the crime, up to the maximum award available. Any counseling services must be necessary due to the injury and may be considered for the victim up to the maximum award. In some cases, certain relatives may qualify up to a maximum of $3,500 for mental health counseling.

Lost Wages
The victim may qualify if employed at the time of injury. The program only considers wages lost because the victim is not physically able to work after the injury. Appropriate documentation is required to prove the wages lost.

Permanent Impairment/Disability
This requires a rating of the injury by a doctor and any payment is based on the victim’s weekly wage, the impairment rating, and provisions in the law.

WHO PROVIDES THE COMPENSATION?
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund is administered by the Division of Claims Administration in the Tennessee Treasury Department. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act of 1976 created the Fund. It is collected from fines, penalties, and fees paid by criminals to state and federal courts. All guidelines are based on statutory law found in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 29, Chapter 13.

State of Tennessee
Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund
A Program of the Tennessee Treasury Department
David H. Lillard, Jr., State Treasurer

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WHAT EXPENSES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE?

- Travel to doctor appointments
- Costs from identity theft or fraud
- Wages lost by anyone except the victim
- Relocation expenses such as deposits, rent, breaking a lease, and utility bills
- Lost, stolen, or damaged property
  Exceptions may include eyeglasses, dental devices, some medically-related devices, and prosthetics (if it is clear they were damaged in the crime)
- Expenses that are (or will be) paid by:
  TennCare, Medicare, or other Health Insurance
  Auto Insurance
  Life or Burial Insurance
  Sick or Vacation Pay
  Workers’ Compensation
  Court-Ordered Restitution
  Donations
  Home-Owner’s Insurance
  ANY other public or private resource

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the maximum compensation?
The overall maximum benefit for the combined expenses for a victim and/or other eligible persons is $30,000 at the present time.

Who files the claim?
The person who is legally responsible for the eligible expenses that are not covered by other resources.

Should I file a claim if my bills have been paid by insurance?
The program can only consider those portions of a bill that are not covered by another source. The program is a fund of last resort.