

# VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM

If you have been the victim of a crime in Maricopa County, you may be eligible for victim compensation to assist you with financial expenses you have incurred as a result of the crime.

In Arizona, the Victim Compensation Program is funded by State and federal funding as well as fees paid by convicted felons. The Maricopa County Attorney's Office Victim Compensation Bureau disburses funds for Maricopa County. The Victim Compensation Board<sup>†</sup> determines the approval, reduction or denial of all compensation claims, in accordance with the Program rules. It should be noted that submitting an application for compensation does not guarantee an award, and awards are based on eligibility and funding availability.

## Victim Compensation Program Eligibility Criteria

- The crime occurred in Maricopa County.
- The crime was reported to law enforcement within 72 hours of its occurrence or discovery.\*
- An application for Victim Compensation was submitted within two years of the crime.\*
- The victim or derivative victim willingly cooperates with law enforcement agencies and prosecution (if applicable).\*
- The victim or derivative victim suffered physical injury, medical condition, mental distress or death as a direct result of the crime.
- The victim or derivative victim incurred economic loss as a result of the crime not covered by a benefit or collateral source that the person is entitled to receive.
- Additional program eligibility criteria may apply. For information on eligibility criteria and program rules, go to: <http://azcjc.gov/ACJC.Web/victim/VictComp.aspx>

\* Unless good cause exists

# CONTRIBUTORY CONDUCT

The Victim Compensation Board<sup>†</sup> may deny or reduce a claim if it determines that contributory conduct existed. The contributory conduct rule specifies the Board<sup>†</sup> shall deny or reduce an award if the Board<sup>†</sup> determines that the victim's physical injury, medical condition, mental distress, or death was due in substantial part to the victim's: negligence, intentional unlawful conduct, or conduct intended to provoke or aggravate that was the proximate cause of the crime and in proportion to the degree to which the Board<sup>†</sup> determines the victim is responsible for the victim's physical injury, medical condition, mental distress, or death.

## BOARD DECISIONS

If a claim or request is denied or reduced, a letter will be sent advising of the decision. A rehearing of a decision may be requested on the grounds that there is new, relevant information not already presented to the Victim Compensation Board<sup>†</sup>. This information must be provided to the appropriate law enforcement agency to be considered. If granted a rehearing, the victim may appeal in writing, via phone or in person.

A State-Level Claim Review may be requested on a decision rendered at the rehearing. No new information may be presented at this review as the State Claim Review Panel will only consider information previously presented. The panel reviews only whether the Victim Compensation Board's<sup>†</sup> decision was consistent with the Program rules. The review panel will provide written notice of the decision and all decisions are final.

<sup>†</sup>The Victim Compensation Board is made up of individuals from a variety of professional backgrounds who are recommended by the County Attorney and then appointed officially by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. The board members generally serve a three year term and may be reappointed. The board meets once a month to review, discuss and make decisions on claims in accordance with the program rules and Open Meeting Laws.

# Victim Compensation



Maricopa County  
Attorney's Office



- Victim Compensation Program
- Eligibility & Application
- Covered Expenses & Required Documentation
- Victim Compensation Process

FROM BILL MONTGOMERY  
MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY

Criminal conduct imposes costs on our entire community and especially on individual victims and their families. Victims of violent crime not only suffer physical harm at the hands of an attacker, but often the financial hardship of having to pay for medical treatment and other related costs of criminal activity.



The Victim Compensation Bureau of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office helps crime victims and their families deal with these impacts by providing compensation to pay some of the expenses that are a direct result of the crime. These can include medical care, mental health counseling, and lost wages. The Victim Compensation Bureau can also assist families of murder victims with funeral expenses.

This brochure lists some of the criteria for the Victim Compensation Program as well as information on how to apply. By helping crime victims obtain financial assistance for their crime related costs, we can ensure that justice is served and help innocent people begin the process of healing and rebuilding their lives.

*Bill Montgomery*

Bill Montgomery, Maricopa County Attorney



# COVERED EXPENSES AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

If you are requesting assistance, it is important to provide as much information and documentation as possible related to your request. The following sections cover types of assistance the program may be able to provide and guidance on necessary documentation.

## Medical, Dental or Mental Health

- Copy of your insurance card front and back.
- Name, address, phone and fax of each medical or mental health provider.
- Itemized bills from each provider.
- Receipts for provider bills you paid.
- "Explanation of Benefits" from your insurance company for covered dates and each provider.
- Prescription labels and register receipts.



## Wage Loss / Loss of Support

- Contact information for the treating doctor/therapist to verify the inability to work for medical/mental health reasons that are related to the crime.
- Contact information for the employer.
- Doctor/therapist letters regarding your inability to work.
- Hospital Discharge paperwork related to inability to work.

## Funeral Expenses

- Itemized billing statements and receipts.

## Limited Mileage/Transportation (Reimbursement only)

- Copies of bills/invoices verifying attendance to medical/mental health appointments.
- Documentation of court hearings attended.
- Documentation of forensic medical exams/interviews dates attended.
- Documentation from law enforcement substantiating threats to safety.

## Limited Crime Scene Clean-Up (only expenses that result from a Homicide, Aggravated Assault and/or Sexual Assault)

- Copies of bills or invoices (not estimates/quotes).
- Homeowners/rental insurance information.

# APPLYING FOR VICTIM COMPENSATION

- It is crucial to fill out the Victim Compensation application completely. This includes completing all the signature forms. If the application is incomplete or any of the signatures are missing, this may delay the processing of the application or the application will not be processed.
- The Victim Compensation application is available in both Spanish and English online at [MaricopaCountyAttorney.org/Victims](http://MaricopaCountyAttorney.org/Victims)

Please contact the Victim Compensation program with any questions at (602) 506-4955.

# AFTER YOU APPLY

Once your application has been received by the Victim Compensation Bureau, we will order a copy of the police report. After the police report is obtained, the file will be assigned to a victim advocate.

- It is the responsibility of the victim or their representative to inform the assigned advocate

of bills, payments and treatment and to provide copies of all necessary documentation.

- The victim advocate will verify the documentation to ensure the services were crime related and eligible for compensation. The verification process includes obtaining treatment plans, bills, medical records, etc. You may be asked for assistance in gathering the needed information/records.
- Upon verification, the case will be submitted to the Victim Compensation Board<sup>+</sup> and you will be notified by mail of their decision.



# VICTIM COMPENSATION DOES NOT COVER

- Property loss or repair
- Pain and suffering
- Attorney fees
- Collisions/Incidents ruled to be an accident
- Suicide
- Fees or interest
- Relocation
- Rental/mortgage expenses or utilities

Compensation is not available for victimization of a person in custody or who has escaped custody from a detention facility, home arrest or work furlough program.

## COLLATERAL SOURCES

The Victim Compensation Program is a payer of last resort. This means that all other available and accessible collateral sources must be used and exhausted before any compensation benefits can be paid. The following are some examples of collateral sources:

- Medical, dental and/or mental health insurance
- AHCCCS
- Life or burial insurance
- Donations
- Civil settlements
- Worker's compensation
- Paid vacation/sick time
- Social Security benefits
- Auto and Home/Rental Insurance

Please notify your victim advocate of any funds you receive from auto insurance, life or burial insurance, donations, loans or legal settlements.

If you are pursuing a lawsuit, please include the name, address, phone and fax of your attorney.

