

# CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION

## Frequently Asked Questions



### I keep hearing that the definition of “victim” has changed a lot. How?



A victim is now defined as “a person who suffers a personal injury as a direct result of a crime, including actual bodily harm, including pregnancy or death, and psychological, mental, or emotional injury resulting from a reasonably perceived or actual threat of injury or death.”

### Does the new law apply to applications based on the day I apply or the date of the crime?



The new statutory guidelines will apply to all applications submitted on or after August 12, 2023. All applications submitted on or before August 11, 2023, will fall under previous guidelines.

### What is an “intervenor”? Can they get Crime Victim Compensation?



An “intervenor” is “a person who goes to the aid of one who has become a victim of a crime and who suffers personal injury.” Yes, an intervenor can get Crime Victim Compensation benefits.

### Is there a minimum loss that must be met before a victim or claimant can receive benefits?



Yes. A victim/claimant must have at least \$200 of out-of-pocket loss(es) OR at least five (5) days of lost wages or support.

## Do I still need to go through my insurance company before applying for compensation?



Yes. The Crime Victim Compensation program is still the payer of last resort. All other financial resources available must be considered first and foremost. Insurance/Medicaid/Medicare, disability payments, donations, etc., are considered primary collateral resources.

## Who are eligible “claimants” under the new law?



In the revised statute, there are 10 definitions of eligible claimants, including children, spouses, family members, roommates, romantic partners, guardians/caregivers, etc. For a complete list of eligible claimants, visit [www.Michigan.gov/CrimeVictim](http://www.Michigan.gov/CrimeVictim).

## Does the victim/claimant have to prove financial hardship in order to get compensation?



No. Previous law required victims/claimants to prove financial hardship in order to get compensation benefits. This law has changed, and victims no longer need to prove financial hardship to apply for and receive compensation benefits.

## Did the filing deadline change?



Yes, victims and claimants now have five (5) years to file their Crime Victim Compensation application from the date of crime as opposed to one (1) year.

- Waivers still apply. For example, if a victim or claimant is unaware of the Crime Victim Compensation program and they file more than five years after the date of crime, the filing requirement may be waived for good cause.

## Do victims still have 48 hours to report the crime to law enforcement in order to be eligible?



No. The new law only requires that the crime be reported to law enforcement to be eligible for Crime Victim Compensation, but no period of time is specified.

## How did the definition of an eligible “crime” change?



The definition added the following language in red:

- A crime committed under the laws of Michigan, the U.S., or a Federally recognized tribe in Michigan that causes actual bodily harm, including pregnancy or death, or that poses a reasonably perceived or actual threat of injury or death within Michigan.
- An act committed in another state that if committed in the State would constitute a crime under the laws of Michigan, the U.S., or a Federally recognized tribe in Michigan, that causes actual bodily harm, including pregnancy or death, or that poses a reasonably perceived or actual threat of injury or death within Michigan or that causes actual bodily harm, including pregnancy or death, to a Michigan resident or that poses a reasonably perceived or actual threat of injury or death to a Michigan resident within a state that does not have a victim compensation program eligible for funding from the Federal Victims of Crime Act.
- An act of international terrorism as that term is defined in 18 USC 2331, committed outside the territorial jurisdiction of the U.S. that causes actual bodily harm, including pregnancy or death, to a Michigan resident or that poses a reasonably perceived or actual threat of injury or death.

## Are any new benefits available?



Yes. There are several new benefit categories:



Relocation  
(Permanent & Temporary)



Non-Medical  
Remedial Treatment



Replacement Costs



Residential Security



Bereavement



Other Necessary  
Services

## Did your award limit(s) increase?



Yes. The maximum award limit was increased from \$25,000 to \$45,000. Other benefit award limits were increased as follows:

	Previous Law	New Law
Funeral/Burial	\$5,000	\$8,000 and \$500 for a grave marker
Grief Counseling	\$500	35 sessions at \$80/hour or \$125/hour
Loss of Earnings & Support	\$350/week	\$1,000/week
Crime Scene Clean-Up	\$500	\$5,000

## Questions? Contact Us.



**877-251-7373**  
Victims-Only Line



**MDHHS-MichiganCrimeVictim@Michigan.gov**  
Email



**517-241-7373**  
Office Line



Learn more about benefits, eligibility, and how to apply at

**[Michigan.gov/CrimeVictim](https://Michigan.gov/CrimeVictim)**