

## What Compensation May Be Paid?

The maximum award is \$15,000 with limitations on certain expenses.

*The award may cover the following:*

- Medical care
- Counseling
- Work loss due to the crime
- Funeral expenses
- Rehabilitation of the victim

The Commission pays only those expenses which are not covered by another source such as insurance, workman's compensation, etc. The victim or claimant must not receive compensation from two sources.

**Please Note:** Stolen property, checks or cash will not be covered by the Commission. The Commission does not provide compensation for pain and suffering.

## What Happens After I File?

Your claim will be verified and processed to determine eligibility for compensation. After the verification is completed and the information is reported to the Compensation Commission, the Commission will approve, not approve or reduce the claim.

## How Will I Be Advised Of The Decision?

You will be sent a copy of the decision detailing the decision for your claim. You may appeal the decision made by the Commission.

## How Do I File A Claim?

Contact us at:

**Alabama Crime Victims'  
Compensation Commission**

P.O. Box 231267

Montgomery, Alabama 36123-1267

Phone (334) 290-4420

1-800-541-9388 (Victim's only)

FAX (334) 290-4455

or contact your local District Attorney's Office

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### Commission Members

Barbara Brown  
Miriam Shehane  
Jay Jones

Executive Director  
Cassie Jones, Ed. D



# Innocent Victims Of Violent Crime Can Get Help





# We Hear the Need for Help

**V**iolent crime continues to rise. Every day there is news about violence — murder, assault, rape. The criminal's rights, punishments and release are public knowledge. However, we are not aware of the pain and suffering of the victims and their families which continues long after the crime has occurred. In an effort to alleviate the hardships suffered by victims of violent crime, the Alabama Legislature passed the Alabama Crime Victims' Compensation Commission Law on June 1, 1984. The Alabama Crime Victims' Compensation Commission provides the only substantial financial compensation to victims for expenses for personal injuries including medical, funeral, counseling bills, lost wages, and future economic loss. Alabama's compensation law covers a variety of expenses for which compensation may be paid.



As of July 27, 1995, in sexual abuse crimes and offenses, Alabama law provides for the cost of medical examinations for the purpose of gathering evidence and treatment for preventing venereal diseases. An application for other expenses incurred, including physical injury, counseling and lost wages, must meet eligibility criteria. This assistance lessens the financial burden placed on innocent victims of violent crime and gives hope to crime victims. Our state law requires a victim or family member of a victim of violent crime to serve on the three member Commission which hears victim compensation claims. This provision insures that claims are reviewed from the victim's standpoint. Now there is hope for victims of crime. You can begin the healing process by calling the Alabama Crime Victims' Compensation Commission to find out if you may qualify.

## Who Can Apply?

Any person who is an innocent victim of criminally injurious conduct and who has sustained personal injuries as a result, or a surviving spouse or child of a victim who died as a result of criminally injurious conduct.

## What Other Requirements Must Be Met?

- The crime was reported to law enforcement within seventy-two hours (unless good cause can be shown for not doing so). Good cause must be submitted in writing.
- The claim is filed within one year of the date of the incident (unless good cause can be shown for not doing so). Good cause must be submitted in writing.
- The victim suffered serious personal injury or death as a result of a criminal act.
- The victim cooperated with law enforcement officials, the prosecutor's office, the courts, and the Commission.
- The victim was not engaged in illegal activity (i.e., drug activity) or was not in an illegal place of business (i.e., shot house) at the time of the incident.
- The victim did not provoke, incite, or willingly take part in the incident.
- The victim was not convicted of a felony and/or did not perpetrate criminally injurious conduct after applying for compensation.
- The victim did not contribute to the victimization in any way.
- The victim's presence in the United States of America was lawful. (Claimants/victims who are certified by federal authorities as victims of human trafficking shall be eligible for compensation benefits. Victims of domestic violence who were illegal at the time of the victimization may also qualify for compensation benefits.)