

VICTIMS' COMPENSATION FUND AND RESTITUTION

Victims of violent crimes or negligence sometimes have cases that are not actionable for a claim in court. Luckily, there are systems in place in our society to ensure people can still recover from loss related to violent crimes. Examples of loss include lost wages because you cannot work or medical bills and co-pays that are not covered by insurance. Victims' Compensation Funds and Restitution can be a recourse for a person to be made whole again after experiencing a violent crime or negligence.

+ RESTITUTION AT CRIMINAL PROCEEDING

The first action available to victims is to appear at the criminal case and ask the Court to grant restitution. Restitution is the monetary payment that is imposed as a penalty to restore loss. This involves testifying through a victim impact statement on how you have been negatively affected by the actions of the defendant and explain how you have been financially impacted as a result. It is common for the Court to grant restitution, but this may not always occur.

+ CRIME VICTIMS' RESTITUTION FUND

Almost every state has a Crime Victims' Restitution Fund set up for the compensation of individuals who would otherwise experience a financial hardship. To receive assistance, you must complete an application. The application for these funds must be submitted within two years of the incident occurring. It is also crucial the incident be reported to the police and/or a police report be created within 48 hours of the incident.

+ STATE RESOURCES

In Missouri:

Visit: <https://dps.mo.gov/dir/programs/cvc/>

- + Victims may also call the Missouri Helpline toll free: (573) 526-6006 or contact the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund via e-mail at: cvc@dps.mo.gov
- + Missouri offers up to \$25,000 to victims

In Illinois:

Visit: <https://ag.state.il.us/victims/cvc.html>

- + Victims may also call the Illinois Helpline toll free: (800) 228-3368
- + Illinois offers up to \$27,000 to victims

In Kansas:

Visit: <https://ag.ks.gov/victim-services/victim-compensation>

- + Victims may also call the Kansas Helpline toll free: (800) 828-9745
- + Kansas offers up to \$25,000 victims

ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR VICTIMS

In addition to providing financial benefits to victims who have encountered hardships, our legal communities provide other services to allow people to cope. These services include free counseling in both group and individual settings, food pantries and meals, domestic violence shelters, neglected or abused children shelters, etc. These services are intended to help with the emotional damages that are suffered by victims, not just the financial hardships.

In Missouri:

Visit: <https://www.supportvictims.org/> or call the Missouri Victim Resources Helpline toll free: (314) 652-3623

In Illinois:

Visit: <https://ag.state.il.us/victims/links.html> or call the Illinois Victim Resources Helpline toll free: (800) 228-3368

In Kansas:

Visit: <https://ag.ks.gov/victim-services/information-for-crime-victims>

(Click on Resource Directory) or call the Kansas Victim Resources Helpline toll free: (800) 828-9745

Each state has their own limit to financial resources available.