

## HOW DO I APPLY?

If you are a victim of violent crime in Texas, report the crime to the local law enforcement agency and contact **STEPHENS & STEPHENS** ask for information about the Crime Victims' Compensation program. We have a crime victim liaison that can explain the program, provide you with an application and help you fill it out.

Applications for benefits can also be obtained directly from the Crime Victims' Compensation Program in the Office of the Attorney General by calling (800) 983-9933.

Applications may also be downloaded from:  
[www.texasattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov)

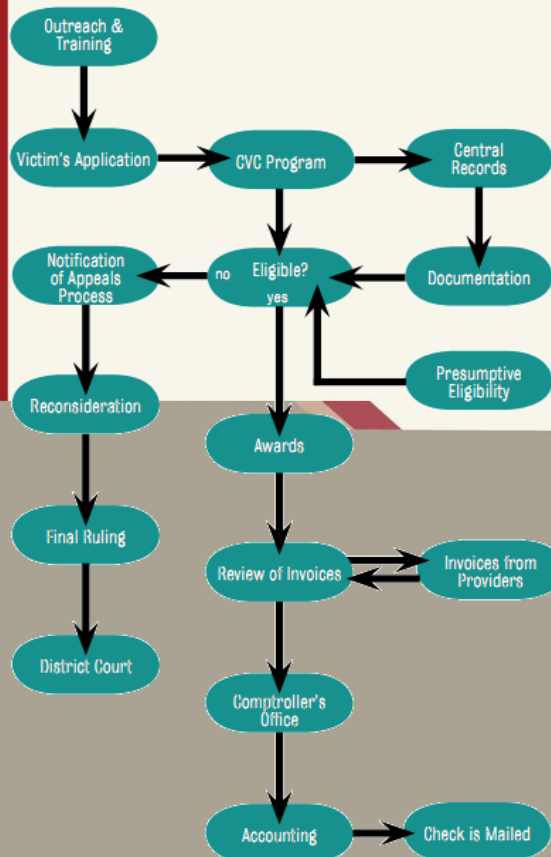
## WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS TO APPEAL WHEN BENEFITS HAVE BEEN REDUCED OR DENIED?

If the Crime Victims' Compensation Program makes a decision and victim or claimant disagrees, they have a right to ask that the decision to be reconsidered. In order to appeal a decision, they must notify Crime Victims' Compensation **IN WRITING** within **30 days**, stating the reason for dissatisfaction. If the result of the reconsideration process is not satisfactory, the victim or claimant has 30 days to request a final ruling hearing from the crime Victims' Compensation Program. Should the victim or claimant not agree with the outcome of the hearing, he or she has 40 days from the date of the final hearing to file with the Attorney General a **written notice** of dissatisfaction and **40 days** thereafter to file a lawsuit in district court.

## WHAT IS IT?

Crime Victims' Compensation is a financial assistance program that helps eligible victims of crime with certain expenses related to the crime. Money for this program comes from court costs paid by criminals and deposited by each Texas county into the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund.

## HOW THE PROCESS WORKS:



Get Started Now  
**SUBMIT YOUR CASE**

Serious Injury  
Trucking & Car Accidents  
Defective Products  
Wrongful Death  
Industrial Accidents  
Crane Accidents  
Spinal Cord Injury  
BP Claims  
Automotive

## FIND US ON



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STEPHENS AND STEPHENS

There is HELP for

**VICTIMS**  
OF  
**CRIME**



1-866-498-8410

**WE HANDLE CRIME  
VICTIMS COMPENSATION  
CLAIMS**

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[https://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG\\_Publications/pdfs/cvc\\_brochure.pdf](https://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/pdfs/cvc_brochure.pdf)

## WHAT IS CRIME VICTIMS' COMPENSATION?

The Crime Victims' Compensation Program is administered by the Office of the Attorney General and is dedicated to ensuring that crime victims receive every possible form of assistance provided by law. The Crime Victims' Compensation Program is available after primary sources of payment - such as health insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, auto insurance or Texas Workers' Compensation - have been exhausted. If the court orders the offender to pay restitution to the victim for an expense that Crime Victims' Compensation has already paid, the victim may be required to reimburse the Fund. If the victim or claimant recovers money through the settlement of a civil suit against the offender or a third party, he or she may also have to reimburse the Fund.

### TO BE ELIGIBLE

- Be a **RESIDENT** of Texas or another state with the crime occurring in Texas or a Texas resident who becomes a victim in another state or in a country without a compensation program.
- Report the crime to a law enforcement agency within a reasonable period of time, but not so late as to interfere with or hamper the investigation and prosecution of the crime.
- File the application within three years of the date of the crime.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### WHO MAY QUALIFY?

- An innocent victim of crime who suffers substantial threat of physical and/or emotional harm or death
- A dependent of a victim
- An authorized individual acting on behalf of a victim
- An intervener who goes to the aid of a victim or peace officer
- A person who legally assumes the obligations or voluntarily pays certain expenses related to the crime on behalf of the victim
- Immediate family or household members related by blood or Marriage who require counseling as a result of the crime
- A peace officer, fire fighter or individual who has a duty to protect the public and is injured in a crime

### WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE?

Benefits may be reduced or denied if the victim:

- participated in the crime
- engaged in illegal activity
- contributed to the crime
- was an inmate at the time of the crime
- knowingly or intentionally submitted false or forged information to the Crime Victims' Compensation Program

did not cooperate with the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

## CRIMES & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### WHAT CRIMES ARE COVERED

Crimes covered by Crime Victims' Compensation are those in which the victim suffers substantial threat of physical or emotional harm or death. These may include sexual assault, kidnapping, robbery, assault, homicide and other violent crimes. Vehicular crimes that are covered include failure to stop and render aid, DWI, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, aggravated assault, intoxication manslaughter and intoxication assault.

### WHAT TYPE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE is available?

Claims may be approved for benefits up to a total of **\$50,000**. In the case of catastrophic injuries resulting in a total and permanent disability, victims may be eligible for an additional **\$75,000** in benefits. Upon approval, benefits may be awarded for the following:

- Medical, hospital, physical therapy or nursing care
- Psychiatric care or counseling
- One-time relocation assistance for victims of family violence or a victim of sexual assault who is assaulted in the victim's place of residence
- Loss of earnings or support
- Loss of wages and travel reimbursement due to participation in, or attendance at, the investigation, prosecutorial and judicial processes

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CONTINUED

- Care of a child or dependent
  - Funeral and burial expenses
  - Crime scene clean up
  - Replacement costs for clothing, bedding or other property seized as evidence or rendered unusable as the result of the investigation
  - Attorney fees for assistance in filing the Crime Victims' Compensation application and in obtaining benefits, if the claim is approved
  - Loss of wages and travel to seek medical treatment or counseling
- Additional benefits for victims who have suffered a catastrophic injury includes:
- making a home or car accessible
  - Job training and vocational rehabilitation
  - Training in the use of special appliances
  - Home health care
  - Reimbursement of lost wages
  - Rehabilitation technology, long-term medical expenses and durable medical equipment reimbursement for property damage or theft is not an eligible expense.

**Please note that financial assistance may be limited or unavailable depending on laws in effect when the crime occurred.**