



Help for Victims of Domestic Violence

Information Sheet

The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that one in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Furthermore, approximately 4.8 million women fall victim to physical assault or rape by an intimate partner each year. And while women suffer the highest rates of this type of violence, it is a crime that victimizes men, teenagers and children as well. Each year, 2.9 million men in the U.S. are estimated to be victims of intimate partner physical assaults.

The needs of every crime victim are unique and the California Victim Compensation Program is here to help qualifying victims. CalVCP can provide financial assistance to domestic violence victims, including up to \$2,000 per household for expenses relating to relocation.

What is the California Victim Compensation Program? (CalVCP)

CalVCP may reimburse victims for expenses that result from qualifying violent crimes. Victims of domestic violence who have been injured or have been threatened with injury may be eligible for assistance from CalVCP.

CalVCP can help victims of domestic violence for crimes that occur in California as well as California residents who become victims while visiting other states or countries.

Additionally, individuals who suffer a monetary loss because of death or injury to a crime victim may also be eligible for compensation. These “derivative victims” can include:

- Children
- Parents
- Legal Guardians
- Brothers
- Sisters
- Grandparents
- Grandchildren

What Expenses Will CalVCP Cover?

CalVCP may help pay for expenses related to domestic violence. Qualification for one or more of these expenses must be verified and meet CalVCP criteria before payment can be made:

- Medical and Dental Treatments
- Mental Health Services
- Income Loss
- Funeral and Burial Expenses
- Childcare services when a caregiver is killed or disabled
- Home or Vehicle Modifications
- Home Security
- Relocation Expenses
- Crime Scene Cleanup
- Loss of Support for dependents when a victim is killed or disabled

How Does a Victim Apply for Compensation?

Victims of Domestic Violence can apply for CalVCP assistance in four ways:

- Contact a local county Victim Witness Assistance Center. A victim advocate at the center can help victims complete and submit an application as well as provide other assistance. Most victim witness centers are part of the county District Attorney's office. A list of California Victim Witness Assistance Centers can be found at <http://www.vcgcb.ca.gov/victims/localhelp.aspx>
- Call the CalVCP Help Line at 800.777.9229
- Download an application at www.calvcp.ca.gov
- E-mail CalVCP at info@vcgcb.ca.gov

When submitting a completed application, include one or more of the following forms of documentation if you have it available:

- Crime report
- An affidavit from a caseworker

Additional Resources

Assistance and Advocacy

911: Call 911 if you or someone you know finds themselves in a dangerous domestic situation.

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). Help is available to callers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. www.ndvh.org.

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence: The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence promotes the collective voice of a diverse coalition of organizations and individuals, working to eliminate all forms of domestic violence. <http://www.cpedv.org/>.

Relocation Resources

Federal Housing Choice Vouchers Program

The Housing Choice Vouchers Program is the federal government's program for assisting very low-income participants with housing. The vouchers are administered locally by public housing agencies (PHA). The PHA pays a housing subsidy directly to the landlord on behalf of the participating family. The California Victim Compensation Program can reimburse a crime victim for expenses related to a deposit for voucher housing. For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at **800-955-2232** or visit the website at http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/hcv/about/fact_sheet.cfm.

Local County Social Services Offices

Local county social services offices can put victims in touch with financial, medical, housing and other social service assistance. For a listing of county social service offices, visit their website at <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>.