



Other than the victim's age, elder abuse is a crime which is indiscriminate in choosing who it strikes. Factors such as one's socio-economic status, gender, race, ethnicity, educational background and geographical location do not provide an impenetrable barrier against its broad reach.

Elder Abuse victims often live in silent desperation, unwilling to seek assistance because they unfortunately believe their cries for help will go unanswered and/or they fear retaliation from their abusers. Many remain silent to protect abusive family members from the legal consequences of their crimes or are too embarrassed that they have fallen victim to predators. Others fear that no one will believe them – chalking up their allegations to the effects of old age.

What is the California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP) ?

CalVCP may reimburse victims for expenses that result from certain violent crimes, including elder abuse. Victims of crime who have been injured or have been threatened with injury may be eligible for help from CalVCP.

CalVCP can help victims of elder abuse for crimes that occur in California as well as California residents who become victims outside the State of California.

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" include:

- Spouses or Domestic Partners
- Children
- Parents
- Legal Guardians
- Brothers
- Sisters
- Grandparents
- Grandchildren

What Expenses Can CalVCP Help Pay?

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

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

How Does a Victim Apply for Compensation?

Victims of elder abuse may apply for 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.
- Call CalVCP Customer Service 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 number
- Copies of any medical, dental, or mental health bills directly related to the incident(s)

Additional Resources

California Department of Justice

You may report elder abuse crimes or obtain help by calling the Attorney General's Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse toll-free at 800.722.0432 or by mailing a written complaint to:

California Department of Justice
Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud Elder Abuse
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

In addition, you may file a complaint by using the online form available on the Attorney General's website at <http://ag.ca.gov/bmfea/reporting.php>.

California Department of Aging (CDA)

The California Department of Aging (CDA) administers programs that serve older adults, adults with disabilities, family caregivers, and residents in long-term care facilities throughout the State. <http://www.aging.ca.gov/>

DSS Adult Protective Services: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/agedblinddisabled/PG1298.htm>