

Understanding compensation for victims of violent crime in Ontario

In Ontario, victims of violent crime may be eligible for compensation from the Ontario Government. Victims must apply to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board which will assess whether you are eligible for financial compensation.

Ottawa Victim Services can support you through this process by explaining the guidelines, helping you fill out the forms and accompanying you to hearings.

There are some things you should know before applying:

- You must apply for compensation within **two years** of the date of the crime but you can apply for an extension;
- You do not need a lawyer to apply;
- If the offender has not been convicted, he/she may be notified of your application and be permitted to participate in the hearing. If you have concerns about the notification of the offender, tell the Board when you apply;
- The process may take some time, especially if there are ongoing criminal proceedings;
- The Board may deny or reduce an award if they find that you caused or contributed to your injuries or you have refused reasonable cooperation with the police;

The Board may award compensation for costs associated with a violent crime, including:

- treatment expenses;
- loss of income;
- pain and suffering;
- funeral expenses; and
- costs associated with supporting a child born as a result of a sexual assault

The Board will **not** award compensation:

- if the crime committed outside the Province of Ontario,
- for damaged, lost or stolen property or monetary loss from fraud;
- for motor vehicle incidents (except where the vehicle was used deliberately to assault or harm another person);
- for distress and/or loss of wages for attending criminal court,

This is meant as a basic summary only. For more information, please contact the Board at: 1-800-372-7463 or visit their website at <http://www.cicb.gov.on.ca/en/index.htm>.