



SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINATION PROGRAM (SAFE)

The Crime Victims Compensation Board administers the SAFE program, which makes payments directly to medical professionals and facilities that conduct sexual assault examinations. Medical providers bill the SAFE program directly as state law prohibits billing patients solely for this expense.

This program does not require reporting by the victim to law enforcement.

Sexual assault survivors may be eligible for a lump sum payment when claims are delayed more than ten years due to SAFE kit testing or DNA matching delays.

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES RELATED TO THE CRIME (Some limits apply)

- Medical expenses
- Funeral expenses
- Mental health counseling for up to 2 years
- Rehabilitative or wellness practices
- Relocation and temporary housing expenses
- Loss of earnings resulting from the crime
- Loss of financial support resulting from the crime
- Lost earnings from bereavement in homicide cases
- Expenses related to court proceedings
- Emotional support animal expenses
- Crime scene clean-up
- Reimbursement for items seized by law enforcement
- Expenses related to corrective eyewear
- Window and lock replacement
- Tattoo removal for survivors of human trafficking

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Crime Victims Compensation

For Innocent Victims of Crime

This pamphlet is a summary of the statutory provisions applicable to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund and is not in itself binding to the Board. For the actual provision and rules, refer to KRS 49.

Available in Spanish.

REQUIREMENTS

The Office of Claims and Appeals – Crime Victims Compensation Board (CVCB) administers the Crime Victims Compensation Fund and considers payment or reimbursement for expenses related to crimes occurring in Kentucky when no other resources are available.

A claimant must:

- Be an innocent victim of a crime or some conduct that could be charged as a crime and have no other means of payment.
- Or be a surviving family member or personal representative of the victim; dependent on principal support from the victim; be legally responsible for the medical or funeral expenses of the victim; or any person acting as the primary caregiver for the victim.
- Cooperate with requests made by the Board for evidence to support the claim. Conviction is not required.

REDUCTION OF BENEFITS

The CVCB is the payer of last resort.

Awards must be reduced by amounts already received or to be received from other sources like insurance or workers' comp claims, legal settlements, and/or restitution.

CLAIM PROCESS

- Claim forms are available at kycc.ky.gov.
- Forms are reviewed to ensure all necessary information is included.
- The Claimant is notified if additional information or documentation is required.
- Staff review, gather pertinent information and verify submitted claim.
- The claim is assigned to a board member who makes a recommendation for either approval or denial of an award to the full board.
- Staff notifies claimant of recommendation. Claimant has 15 days to register disagreement.
- Board renders a final decision.
- Claimant receives a copy of the final order.

APPEAL OF A DENIED CLAIM

An appeal may be filed in Franklin Circuit Court or the circuit court in the county where the claim occurred.

The CVCB pays providers directly on behalf of the claimant for crime-related expenses, and can consider reimbursement to the claimant for crime-related out-of-pocket expenses.

The maximum award per victim cannot exceed \$50,000; the maximum award for funeral/burial expenses cannot exceed \$10,000, which is included in the \$50,000 cap.

PAYMENT PROCESS

The time required for processing claims depends on numerous factors, including the cooperativeness of the claimant, timely receipt of requested documentation, the complexity of issues related to the crime, as well as any issues resulting from the criminal trial.

The CVCB can consider additional bills after an initial claim has been filed, as well as emergency payments up to \$1,000. When applicable, emergency awards are subtracted from the \$50,000 cap on all awards.

Collection agencies are prohibited from activities while a claim is under consideration.



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