

Assistance for Survivors

The Minnesota Crime Victims Reparations Board can help ease the financial burdens faced by survivors. If someone in your family was killed in a homicide or drunk driving, hit and run, or criminal vehicular operation (CVO) crash, you may be eligible for additional benefits through the Board. Even if you have already submitted your claim form, please do not hesitate to contact our office if you are interested in pursuing additional benefits. Eligibility is not based on income.

Who is eligible?

In cases involving a death resulting from a homicide or drunk driving, hit and run or CVO crash, the following persons may apply for benefits:

- ◆ A family member, a dependent of the victim, or the estate of the victim.
- ◆ A person that paid for some of the services for the victim.
- ◆ The guardian, guardian ad litem, conservator or authorized agent of the victim, or the victim's dependents.

How do I apply?

- ◆ If you have already submitted a claim form, send us a letter describing the additional expenses you would like the Board to consider paying. Please attach any receipts.
- ◆ If you have not filed a claim form, please contact our office to request a claim form. You must submit a claim form within three years of the crime.

It takes about four months to receive funds from the Board.

What expenses may be paid?

The following expenses may be paid by the Board if they were not covered by your insurance or other sources of funding (not including life insurance):

- ◆ **Funeral Expenses.** Up to \$6500 of your losses, including funeral services, cemetery costs and headstone, transportation of the body, obituaries, church rental, food, flowers, and clothing for the victim. Up to \$1000 of this amount may be used for transportation and lodging for the family to attend the funeral.
- ◆ **Crime Scene Cleanup.** Considered on a case-by-case basis.

- ◆ **Mental Health Costs.** Counseling that is needed as a result of the crime, including individual or group therapy.
- ◆ **Loss of Support.** Benefits for dependents of the deceased victim to replace a portion of the victim's financial contribution to the family.
- ◆ **Lost Wages.** Loss of income due to the emotional injury that resulted directly from the crime. Those covered include: parents and spouse/ domestic partner, up to 52 weeks. Children, grandparents, and siblings, up to 1 week.
- ◆ **Child Care.** Child care costs if the service was normally provided by the victim prior to the crime. Hourly rates for unlicensed providers must not exceed \$3 an hour during the day, and \$4 an hour at night.
- ◆ **Medical Costs.** Medical expenses directly related to the crime including ambulance, hospital, physician and prescriptions.

What is Loss of Support?

If the victim has died as a result of the crime, the victim's dependents may be eligible for loss of support payments. Dependents usually include the spouse or domestic partner, and children under the age of 18.

The person who has custody of the children should file the claim for loss of support.

To request loss of support, please send copies of the following information to our office:

- ◆ Federal tax return of the deceased;
- ◆ W-2 forms of the deceased and spouse;
- ◆ Birth certificates and social security numbers of the children;
- ◆ Court order showing how much the deceased was ordered to pay in spousal and/or child support, if applicable.

Loss of support payments are based on a monthly rate determined by the Board at the beginning of each fiscal year. The current rate is \$250/month per dependent.

Counseling expenses

The Reparations Board may pay for counseling sessions for the following family members of the victim:

- ◆ Parents
- ◆ Spouse/domestic partner
- ◆ Children
- ◆ Siblings
- ◆ Grandparents

Other groups that can help

If someone you loved was murdered or killed by a drunk driver, it may be helpful to talk to other survivors. For information about survivor support groups in your area, please contact:

Parents of Murdered Children
651.484.0336

Victim Intervention Program, Inc.
St. Paul 651.266.5674
Minneapolis 612.673.3951

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
651.523.0802 or 800.487.6233

For the name and number of your local victim assistance program, please contact our office.

CONTACT Us

Office of Justice Programs
Crime Victims Reparations Board
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 2300
St. Paul, MN 55101-1515

Email: dps.justiceprograms@state.mn.us

Website: www.ojp.state.mn.us

651-201-7300 Main
888-622-8799 Toll Free
651-205-4827 TTY
651-296-5787 Fax

3/08

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR SURVIVORS

MINNESOTA CRIME VICTIMS
REPARATIONS BOARD



OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY