

# Every Crime Victim Matters



**The New York State  
Office of Victim  
Services (OVS)  
provides financial  
compensation to  
innocent victims of  
crime and funds a  
network of programs  
that assist crime  
victims in the state's  
62 counties.**

***The agency may be able to provide  
compensation for, among other things:***

- Medical bills and counseling expenses
- Personal property essential to health, welfare and safety
- Forensic medical exams after sexual assault
- Crime scene cleanup
- Lost wages
- Relocation expenses
- Transportation expenses to court



**Office of  
Victim Services**

Under state and federal law, individuals eligible for assistance must be innocent victims of crime. The agency can reduce an award or deny a claim if it determines that a victim's conduct contributed to their injuries. Crimes must have been promptly reported to the proper authorities. The agency is a payer of last resort; all other sources of assistance must be used before victims can be paid for out-of-pocket expenses related to the crime.

To learn more or to get help and be connected to a victim assistance program in your community:

Call 1-800-247-8035

Or visit:

**[www.ovs.ny.gov](http://www.ovs.ny.gov)**





# You Are Not Alone



Office of  
Victim Services

**Every year, 1 in 10 people who are 60 or older are abused or victimized.**

**But fewer than 10 percent of those crimes are reported to authorities, often because the abuser is a family member or caregiver.**

## ***Know the signs and symptoms of elder abuse:***

- Unexplained physical injury
- Emotional distress
- Withdrawn or isolated behaviors
- Changes in daily patterns
- Fear of caregiver

## ***Take action:***

- **Raise** awareness
- **Reach out** to elderly family, friends and neighbors
- **Report** mistreatment to law enforcement

***Consult a local Victim Assistance Program to learn if the state Office of Victim Services can help pay some unreimbursed crime-related expenses.***

***Victims who are 60 or older may be eligible for certain compensation even if they haven't been physically injured.***



## Stop Abuse in Later Life

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call **9-1-1**.

To report elder abuse, contact your local Adult Protective Services or visit [www.nyselderabuse.org](http://www.nyselderabuse.org)

For more resources, contact the NYS Office for the Aging: [www.aging.ny.gov](http://www.aging.ny.gov)