
How to Apply for Compensation

Who can apply for compensation?

Innocent victims of crime, certain relatives, dependents, legal guardians and eligible Good Samaritans can apply to the Office of Victim Services (OVS) for compensation of out-of-pocket expenses not covered by insurance or other resources.

What kind of expenses can I get compensated for?

OVS offers compensation related to personal injury, death and loss of essential personal property.

The specific expenses OVS may cover include:

- Medical, pharmacy and counseling expenses
- Loss of Essential Personal Property (*up to \$500, including \$100 for cash*)
- Burial or Funeral Expenses (*up to \$6,000*)
- Lost Wages or Lost Support (*up to \$30,000*) (*Parents or guardians of hospitalized minor children may be eligible for this benefit.*)
- Transportation (court/medical)
- Occupational/Vocational Rehabilitation
- Security Devices and DV Shelter Costs
- Crime scene clean-up (*up to \$2,500*)
- Good Samaritan property losses (*up to \$5,000*)
- Moving expenses (*up to \$2,500*)

How do I ask for compensation?

Send us your completed OVS application along with copies of:

- Police reports
- Medical bills
- Correspondence with insurance companies or benefits plan saying if they will cover your loss
- Insurance cards
- Receipts for essential personal property
- Death certificate and funeral contract
- Victim's birth certificate
- Proof of age (driver's license, birth certificate etc.)
- Legal guardianship papers

What if I don't have some of the papers OVS needs?

Send your application in right away. You can send the other documents later.

What if my property was lost, damaged or destroyed because of the crime?

If you are under 18, 60 or over, disabled or were injured, you may apply for benefits to replace your *essential* personal property or cash that was not covered by any other resource.

Essential means necessary for your health and welfare, like eyeglasses and clothes.

What if I move?

Send OVS a signed letter right away. Tell us your new address and phone number. Also let us know if your email address changes.

Who can sign the claim?

Generally, the victim must sign the claim. However, if the victim is under 18, or is physically or mentally incapable of signing, then the legal guardian (the person receiving the benefits) must fill out section 2 of the claim and sign the claim.

If the victim died, the person asking for benefits must fill out section 2 of the claim and sign the claim.

Is there another way to apply?

Yes. Visit ovs.ny.gov to access the secure Victim Service Portal (VSP) and file an application online.

Do I have to fill out the attached HIPAA form?

Yes. Fill out one HIPAA form for **each** service provider. You can photocopy a blank form to make extra copies.

80 S. Swan Street
Albany, NY 12210-8002
(518) 457-8727

55 Hanson Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217-1523
(718) 923-4325

ovs.ny.gov

800-247-8035

Court Ordered Restitution Information

What is restitution?

Restitution is compensation paid to a victim by the perpetrator of a criminal offense for the losses or injuries incurred as a result of the criminal offense. It must be ordered by the Court at the time of sentencing and is considered part of the sentence.

Restitution is **NOT** for payment of damages for future losses, mental anguish or “pain and suffering.”

When the District Attorney’s (DA) office advises the Court that you have requested restitution or when the victim impact statement contained in the probation investigation report (pre-sentence, pre-plea or pre-disposition report) indicates that the victim seeks restitution, the Court must order restitution unless the interests of justice dictate otherwise. When the judge does not order restitution, the judge must clearly state his/her reasons on the record.

What can I request as restitution?

You can ask for any expense you incur as a result of the criminal offense – even for items the OVS may not be able to reimburse. Restitution may include, but is not limited to, reimbursement for medical bills, counseling expenses, loss of earnings, funeral expenses, insurance deductibles and the replacement of stolen or damaged property.

Who is entitled to restitution?

Anyone who has been the victim of a criminal offense and has suffered injuries, economic losses or damages can seek restitution. Many times, victims who deserve restitution do not request it. This can occur because victims are not aware that they are entitled to restitution, or do not know what steps to take to go about receiving the restitution they deserve.

How do I ask for restitution?

You should contact the DA’s office and advise them of the extent of your injury, your out-of-pocket losses and the amount of damages you are requesting.

It is your responsibility to give the police, DA and, upon request, the local probation department copies of the bills and other documents showing the extent of your injuries, your out-of-pocket losses and the amount of damages you want considered by the Court. Your claim for restitution will be included in any probation investigation report (pre-sentence, pre-plea or pre-disposition report). Be sure to:

- Keep accurate records such as original receipts of any expenses you have as a direct result of the criminal offense.
- Give copies of these receipts to the police, DA and local probation department.

You need to clearly explain your need for restitution as soon as possible to the DA, the victim/witness advocate, and the probation department. Plea agreements can occur within days of the actual criminal offense. If this information is not provided before the plea agreement and sentencing, you may have to pursue the perpetrator in Civil Court.

The DA is under an obligation to petition the Court to order restitution on your behalf.

In all felony criminal cases, many misdemeanor criminal cases and all juvenile delinquency and persons in need of supervision (PINS) cases, a pre-sentence or predisposition investigation report is required. The local probation department will contact you about the issue of restitution as it pertains to your case.

How is restitution determined?

The amount of restitution is based on proof of your out-of-pocket losses incurred as a result of the criminal offense. The perpetrator has a right to object to the amount of restitution. The Court may hold a hearing on the issue of restitution where the Court may consider the perpetrator’s ability to pay. The DA’s office may contact you and ask you to testify at the restitution hearing. If you have a concern about appearing personally in Court, you should explore alternatives with the DA assigned to your case.

If the OVS has paid your bills, the Court may order that restitution payments be made to the OVS for those paid items. It is important that you advise the DA’s Office that you filed a claim with the OVS.

If you filed a claim with the OVS, it is important that you advise the OVS if the Court orders the perpetrator to pay restitution.

Application for Compensation

New York State Office of Victim Services

Read
How to Apply for
Compensation before
Filling out this form.

Please print. Answer all questions. It is a crime to file a false claim!



Victim Assistance Program Use Only

OVS VAP ID#	Program Name/Phone	Advocate Name/Email
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1. Tell us about the victim.

Last Name	First Name:	MI	Social Security # <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you do not have one	Date of Birth
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Mailing Address:

<i>Street</i>	<i>Apt # (or P.O. Box)</i>	<i>City:</i>	<i>County:</i>	<i>State (Or Foreign Country)</i>	<i>Zip Code</i>
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Race/Ethnicity: White Black Hispanic American Indian/Alaskan Native Asian Indian Chinese Japanese Filipino Korean
 Vietnamese Bangladeshi Pakistan Guamanian Chamorro Samoan Native Hawaiian Other Multi-Race

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Separated Widowed Lives with Partner

Gender: Male Female X
 Prefer Not to Answer

Was the victim disabled at the time of the crime?
 Yes No Unknown

How did you first hear about the Office of Victim Services?

Police Hospital District Attorney Victim Assistance Program Radio/TV Brochure/Poster Internet Other

2. If you are *not* the victim, and you are signing this claim, you are the claimant. Tell us about you. (See "Who can sign the claim?" on the instructions page.)

Last Name	First Name	MI	Social Security # <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you do not have one	Date of Birth
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Mailing Address:

<i>Street</i>	<i>Apt # (or P.O. Box)</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>State (Or Foreign Country)</i>	<i>Zip Code</i>
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What is your relationship to the victim? (Check **only** one)

Parent Spouse Child Legal Guardian Attorney Other (Explain) _____

3. Tell us about the crime. (Check *only* one.)

The victim died because of:

- Motor Vehicle (DUI/DWI)
- Motor Vehicle (Other)
- Terrorism
- Arson
- Human Trafficking
- Other Homicide

Was the victim injured because of:

- Assault
- Sexual Assault
- Child Physical Abuse/Neglect
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Motor Vehicle (DUI/DWI)
- Motor Vehicle (not DUI/DWI)
- Child Pornography
- Stalking
- Kidnapping
- Terrorism
- Arson
- Robbery
- Human Trafficking

Other (Explain): _____

The victim lost essential personal property because of:

- Burglary
- Motor Vehicle (DUI/DWI)
- Motor Vehicle (not DUI/DWI)
- Human Trafficking
- Robbery (no injury)
- Other (Explain): _____
- Arson
- Criminal Mischief
- Fraud/Financial Crime

Where did the crime happen? (Check **only** one.) Work Owned residence Apt. Bldg. Public Street

Subway/Bus Parking Lot Restaurant/Bar School/School grounds Shopping Mall Other (Explain): _____

- Was this a crime related to domestic violence?..... Yes No Unknown
- Was this a crime related to bullying?..... Yes No Unknown
- Was this a crime related to elder abuse/neglect?..... Yes No Unknown
- Was this a hate crime?..... Yes No Unknown
- Was the victim driving a livery cab when the crime happened?..... Yes No Unknown
- Was the victim's property lost or damaged while trying to prevent or stop a crime against someone else or while helping the authorities stop a crime?.... Yes No

Crime Report #: _____ **Police or criminal justice agency reported to:** _____
 County where crime happened: _____ Date of crime: _____ Date crime was reported: _____
 If more than 7 days between the date of crime and date the crime was reported, explain why: _____

 If more than 1 year between the date of crime and the date you are filing this claim, explain why: _____

 Describe the crime in your own words: _____

4. Tell us about the suspect. Suspect's name (if you know): _____

- Has the suspect been arrested for this crime? Yes No
 Has the suspect been prosecuted for this crime? Yes No Not Yet
 Does the suspect live in the same house as the victim OR is the suspect a member of the victim's family? Yes No
 Has the court issued an order of protection in this case? Yes No (If Yes, attach a copy)
 Has the DA asked the court to order restitution? Yes No Not Yet
 Did the court order the suspect to pay restitution? Yes (Amount \$ _____) No Not Yet

NOTE – If you are eligible for compensation, the OVS may be able to reimburse for the expenses listed below. These items should also be requested as part of court ordered restitution. Applicants are encouraged to share this information with prosecutors if there is a criminal case. See the Court Ordered Restitution Information page for important information about restitution.

5. Tell us about your expenses related to this crime. (Check all that apply.)

- Medical/Ambulance Loss of Support (Death Claim Only) Lost Wages Personal Transportation
 Crime Scene Cleanup Vocational/Rehabilitation DV Shelter Medical/Counseling
 Security Device/System Funeral/Burial Moving/Storage Court
 Counseling Essential Personal Property Loss of Savings
 Other (Explain): _____

6. List any essential personal property, like cash, eyeglasses, or clothing that needs to be replaced because of this crime. (If none, skip to 7.)

Describe what was lost/damaged:	Cost	Describe what was lost/damaged:	Cost
1.	\$	4.	\$
2.	\$	5.	\$
3.	\$	6.	\$

Homeowner/Renter Insurance Company	Policy or ID #	Deductible
		\$
Auto/Other Insurance Company	Policy or ID #	Deductible
		\$

-- If there were no injuries and you are only asking for essential personal property benefits, skip to 15. --

7. Tell us about the victim's or the parent's employment and insurance for Lost Wages.
If you do not want us to contact your employer, you cannot ask to be reimbursed for Lost Wages (Skip to 8.)

- Was the victim/parent of hospitalized minor victim employed when the crime happened? Yes No (If No, skip to 8)
 Did the victim/parent of hospitalized minor victim miss work because of the crime? Yes No
 Was the victim/parent self-employed? Yes No (If Yes, attach copies of last year's tax return and all schedules.)

Employer's Name, Address and Phone #:

 Employer Street City State Zip Code Phone # ()

Other Employer's Name, Address and Phone #:

 Employer Street City State Zip Code Phone # ()

Name, Address, and Phone # of doctor who certified victim could not go to work:

()

Doctor	Street	City	State	Zip Code	Phone #
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Tell us about any insurance company that will cover the victim's lost time at work. (If none, write "None" below and skip to 8.)

	Policy or ID# or "None"		Policy or ID# or "None"
1. Unemployment Insurance		5. Workers' Compensation	
2. Disability Insurance		6. Other Insurance	
3. Pension Plan		7. Social Security Benefits (SSN required)	SSN ____-____-____
4. Other Insurance		8. SSI Benefits (SSN required)	SSN ____-____-____

8. If the victim died, fill out below if you have any burial expenses. (If not, Skip to 9)

Also, attach a copy of the funeral home contract, other bills for burial expenses, and a photocopy of the Death Certificate, if you have them.

Name of Funeral Home: _____ Phone #: () _____

Address: _____
Street
City
State
Zip Code

9. If the victim was injured or died because of this crime, fill out below:

Describe the victim's injuries, briefly: _____

Did the victim receive any medical treatment? Yes No (If No, Skip to section 10)

Tell us about the health professionals who treated the victim for injuries related to this crime:

	Full Name	Complete Address	Phone Number
First Hospital	_____	_____	() _____
Other Hospital	_____	_____	() _____
First Doctor (not in hospital)	_____	_____	() _____
Other Doctor	_____	_____	() _____
First Dentist	_____	_____	() _____
Victim's Counselor	_____	_____	() _____

10. Tell us about the victim's dependents or others who depended on the victim for support. (If none, Skip to 11)

Dependent	Name	Social Security # ____-____-____	Date of Birth	Relationship to Victim
	Address			Are you the legal guardian? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other Dependent	Name	Social Security # ____-____-____	Date of Birth	Relationship to Victim
	Address			Are you the legal guardian? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other Dependent	Name	Social Security # ____-____-____	Date of Birth	Relationship to Victim
	Address			Are you the legal guardian? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

If more than 3 dependents, attach a separate sheet and check here

11. Did anyone besides the victim receive counseling because of this crime? (If no, Skip to 12)

Who received counseling?	Relationship to Victim	Insurance company billed for counseling	Policy or ID #
Counselor's name, address and phone #:			
Who else received counseling?	Relationship to Victim	Insurance company billed for counseling	Policy or ID #
Counselor's name, address and phone #:			

If more than 2 people received counseling because of this crime, check here and attach a separate sheet to describe

12. List any insurance covering the victim or the victim's dependents. If no insurance, write "None" below. If you have applied but are not covered yet, write "Pending" under Policy or ID #.

	Policy or ID #	Name of person(s) covered by this insurance:
Primary Insurance Company		
Major Medical Insurance Company		
Other Insurance (Union, Dental, Vision, etc.)		
Medicare		
Medicaid		
Workers' Compensation		
Auto Insurance		
Other insurance		

13. If the victim died, tell us about any life insurance or death benefits.

(If the victim did not die, or does not have any life insurance or death benefits, skip to 14.)

	Company Name	Address	Phone #	Policy or ID #
Life Insurance	_____	_____	() _____	_____
Pension Plan	_____	_____	() _____	_____
Other Insurance/Plan	_____	_____	() _____	_____
Medicaid	_____	_____	() _____	_____
Workers' Compensation	_____	_____	() _____	_____

If any other insurance or death benefits, list here: _____

Do any of these policies cover the victim's burial expenses? Yes No

Has anyone applied for the Social Security Death Benefit? Yes No

14. Tell us about your financial situation. You MUST answer ALL sections below. If none, enter zero (0).

How many dependents do you have? _____

What is your total annual income (from ALL sources)? If you are not sure, estimate: \$ _____

List ALL your assets and ALL your debts below. If you are not sure, estimate. Attach additional pages, if needed.

Your Assets – If none, enter zero (0).		Your Debts – How much do you owe now?	
Savings, stocks, bonds	\$ _____		If none, enter zero (0).
Real Property (house, etc.)	\$ _____	Mortgage	\$ _____
Proceeds from life insurance	\$ _____	Loans	\$ _____



AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF HEALTH INFORMATION PURSUANT TO HIPAA
[This form has been approved by the New York State Department of Health]

Patient Name	Date of Birth	Social Security Number XXX-XX-____
Patient Address		

I, or my authorized representative, request that health information regarding my care and treatment be released as set forth on this form: In accordance with New York State Law and the Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), I understand that:

- This authorization may include disclosure of information relating to **ALCOHOL** and **DRUG ABUSE, MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT**, except psychotherapy notes, and **CONFIDENTIAL HIV* RELATED INFORMATION** only if I place my initials on the appropriate line in Item 9(a). In the event the health information described below includes any of these types of information, and I initial the line on the box in Item 9(a), I specifically authorize release of such information to the person(s) indicated in Item 8
- If I am authorizing the release of HIV-related, alcohol or drug treatment, or mental health treatment information, the recipient is prohibited from redisclosing such information without my authorization unless permitted to do so under federal or state law. I understand that I have the right to request a list of people who may receive or use my HIV-related information without authorization. If I experience discrimination because of the release or disclosure of HIV-related information, I may contact the New York State Division of Human Rights at (212) 480-2493 or the New York City Commission of Human Rights at (212) 306-7450. These agencies are responsible for protecting my rights.
- I have the right to revoke this authorization at any time by writing to the health care provider listed below. I understand that I may revoke this authorization except to the extent that action has already been taken based on this authorization.
- I understand that signing this authorization is voluntary. My treatment, payment, enrollment in a health plan, or eligibility for benefits will not be conditioned upon my authorization of this disclosure.
- Information disclosed under this authorization might be redisclosed by the recipient (except as noted above in Item 2), and this redisclosure may no longer be protected by federal or state law.
- THIS AUTHORIZATION DOES NOT AUTHORIZE YOU TO DISCUSS MY HEALTH INFORMATION OR MEDICAL CARE WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN THE ATTORNEY OR GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY SPECIFIED IN ITEM 9 (b).**

7. Name and address of health provider or entity to release this information:	
8. Name and address of person(s) or category of person to whom this information will be sent: NYS OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES – AE SMITH BLDG., 80 S. SWAN ST., ALBANY, NY 12210-8002	
9(a). Specific information to be released: <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Record from (insert date) _____ to (insert date) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entire Medical Record, including patient histories, office notes (except psychotherapy notes), test results, radiology studies, films, referrals, consults, billing records, insurance records, and records sent to you by other health care providers. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Include: <i>(Indicate by Initialing)</i> _____ Alcohol/Drug Treatment _____ Mental Health Information _____ HIV-Related Information	
Authorization to Discuss Health Information (b) <input type="checkbox"/> By initialing here _____ I authorize _____ Initials Name of individual health care provider to discuss my health information with my attorney, or a governmental agency, listed here: NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES _____ (Attorney/Firm Name or Governmental Agency Name)	
10. Reason for release of information: <i>At request of the individual for purposes of establishing eligibility for New York State Office of Victim Services benefits.</i>	11. Date or event on which this authorization will expire: <i>This authorization will expire upon the termination of the individual's eligibility for Office of Victim Services benefits.</i>
12. If not the patient, name of person signing form:	13. Authority to sign on behalf of patient:

All items on this form have been completed and my questions about this form have been answered. In addition, I have been provided a copy of the form.

Date: _____

Signature of patient or representative authorized by law.

* **Human Immunodeficiency Virus that causes AIDS. The New York State Public Health Law protects information which reasonably could identify someone as having HIV symptoms or infection and information regarding a person's contacts.**

