

**GEORGIA CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION PROGRAM
COMPENSATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The following are general eligibility requirements:

- 1) Victim must be an innocent party of a violent crime (must have a physical injury).
In child molestation cases, the mere touch of a child may constitute a physical injury.
- 2) Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program can not pay for property loss or property crime.
- 3) The crime must be reported to proper governmental authorities (i.e. law enforcement, child protective services, the courts, etc.) within 72 hours. The 72 hours may be waived for good cause shown.
- 4) A Criminal History will be provided and analyzed on victims 18 years of age and older.
- 5) A parent of a child victim may be eligible for lost wages, to compensate for medical time spent off work with the child.
- 6) Victims of domestic violence may be eligible for loss of support.
- 7) Unless good cause is shown, applications must be submitted within 1 year of the incident. The Board may consider claims filed within 2 years of the crime (all claims received after 1 year must be appealed within 30 days for the Board to consider). Applications received 2 years after the crime cannot be considered for compensation.
- 8) **The Board may consider claims filed within 3 years for crimes that occurred on or after July 1, 2005 (all claims received after 1 year must be appealed within 30 days for the Board to consider).** Applications received 3 years after the crime cannot be considered for compensation.
- 9) The victim must not have contributed to the offense.
- 10) Victims of crime occurring **on or after July 1, 2002, may be eligible for up to \$25,000.** Claims received regarding crimes occurring **prior to July 1, 2002,** are not eligible for more than \$10,000 in compensation benefits.
- *10) **Serious Injury by Vehicle** may be considered when “Whoever, without malice, shall cause bodily harm to another by depriving him of a member of his body, by rendering a member of his body useless, by seriously disfiguring his body or a member thereof or by causing organic brain damage which renders the body or any member thereof useless through the violation of Code Section 40-6-390 or 40-6-391 shall be guilty of the crime of **serious injury by vehicle.**”

Compensable Losses Include:

**(All applications must include a Police Report, TPO, or a Warrant)
\$25,000 Maximum Award Amount for crimes occurring on/after July 1, 2002
\$10,000 Maximum Award Amount for crime occurring before July 1, 2002**

The following documents must be attached in order for the claim to be processed:

- | | <u>Categorical Caps</u> | |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| ✓ Medical Expenses | \$15,000 | Crimes occurring on/after 07/01/02 |
| a.) Itemized (description of service) medical bills must be included | \$10,000 | Crimes occurring between 05/13/02 – 06/30/02 |
| | \$ 5,000 | Crimes occurring prior to 05/13/02 |
| ✓ Funeral Expenses | \$ 3,000 | |
| a.) Death Certificate | | |
| b.) Itemized (description of service) funeral bill | | |
| c.) Receipt of payment (if bill has been paid) | | |
| ✓ Mental Health Counseling Expenses | \$ 3,000 | Crimes occurring on/after 05/13/02 |
| a.) Itemized Counseling Bills | \$ 2,500 | Crimes occurring prior to 05/13/02 |
| (Counselors must be licensed and in good standing with the Secretary of State’s Office) | | |
| ✓ Economic Support | \$10,000 | Crimes occurring on/after 05/13/02 |
| (1) Lost Wages (The victim must be employed at time of crime to be eligible) | \$ 5,000 | Crimes occurring prior to 05/13/02 |
| a.) Pay stubs for a period of at least 60 days prior to injury | | |
| b.) Letter from employer stating number of days missed and wages lost since the date of the injury. | | |
| c.) Doctor’s note required when absent more than one week | | |
| OR | | |
| (2) Loss of Support | | |
| a.) Pay stubs for a period of at least 60 days prior to injury | | |
| b.) Have to submit proof that they have applied for disability, Social Security, Worker’s Compensation, etc. in order to be eligible. | | |
| c.) Additional information may be required upon request. | | |
| ✓ Crime Scene Clean-up | | |
| a.) Itemized sanitization bill must be included. | \$ 1,500 | Crimes occurring on/after 05/13/02 |

The current average processing time is approximately 90 days.