

North Carolina

In North Carolina, victims of crime may be compensated for financial losses that are not covered by their own insurance, worker's compensation funds, Medicare, or restitution payments. A victim is a person who suffers personal injury or death caused by criminally injurious conduct. Criminally injurious conduct means conduct which by its nature:

- Poses a substantial threat of personal injury or death
- Is punishable by a fine or imprisonment or death, and
- Does not result from a violation of the motor vehicle laws except:
 - in conduct related to DWI offenses
 - pedestrians who are victims of hit and run (wheelchairs & bicycles are allowed in definition for pedestrians).

WHO CAN GET HELP?

Persons eligible to apply include:

- The victim.
- A dependent of a deceased victim
- A person who is authorized to act on behalf of a victim or dependent.
- A third person that provided benefits to the victim or his/her family other than in the course or scope of his employment, business or profession.

Persons NOT eligible to apply include:

- The offender.
- A victim who is participating in criminal activity or contributory misconduct.
- A victim who is a prisoner in any state, county or city prison, correctional, youth services or juvenile facility, or local confinement facility, or halfway house, group home or similar facility.

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WHAT MUST I DO TO GET HELP?

You must submit an application to the state's victims compensation services program. For information about how to apply, call them at 919-733-7974 or 1-800-826-6200 (toll free). If you need help, you also may call the Rape Victim Assistance Program at 1-800-826-6200 (within NC) or (919) 733-7974. Or write to:

Division of Victims Compensation Services
4703 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4703
Fax: (919) 715-4209

WHAT COSTS MAY BE PAID?

Expenses that may be compensated include:

- Medical expenses (i.e. doctors, hospitals, lab tests, ambulance, therapy)
- Counseling
- Loss of wages
- Funeral expenses - maximum of \$3,500
- Prosthetics
- Eyeglasses
- Dental work
- Wheelchair ramp/widening of doors
- Hospital bed
- Crime scene cleanup such as door or window locks, car interiors (cleaning of blood)

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The program will not cover pain and suffering or property loss or damaged property.

Also, the ***Rape Victims Assistance Program*** reimburses a North Carolina medical provider up to \$1,000 for gathering evidence for a rape kit. Hospital staff will submit a rape claim to the Rape Assistance Program to pay the hospital bill for the evidence collection. The Rape Victims Assistance Program also will compensate rape victims for expenses not paid by a collateral source such as Medicaid, public or private insurance plans or other victim benefit sources. Payment requests are processed and paid depending on whether funds are available and if reports of the assault are verified in writing by the appropriate law enforcement agency. Possible reasons for claim denial could include:

- The assault is not reported to law enforcement within FIVE DAYS of the incident or without good cause;
- Medical treatment was not received within 90 days of the incident;
- A bill is not submitted within six months of the date service rendered;
- The alleged victim makes a false report to law enforcement;
- Other insurance coverage pays the bill.

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