



Nevada

The Nevada Legislature established the Nevada Victims of Crime Program (VOCP) in 1969 to provide assistance to crime victims, and it operates under the auspices of the Nevada State Board of Examiners, which consists of the Nevada Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of State. "It is the policy of the State to provide assistance to persons who are victims of violent crimes or the dependents of victims of violent crimes." (State Policy: NRS 217.010.) Funding for the program is provided through the courts from criminals who are assessed fines, fees and restitution. You can visit the VOCP website at this link: <http://www.voc.nv.gov/>. For answers to frequently asked questions about the program, visit this link: http://dadmin.state.nv.us/Victims_FAQs.htm, or send an e-mail to: bnix@hearings.state.nv.us.

WHO CAN GET HELP?

To be eligible for assistance, a person must be a victim of a violent crime in Nevada, involving physical injury, threat of physical injury or death. Family members of a deceased victim of a crime may also be eligible. The program can help victims of sexual assault as well as other crimes such as assault/battery, domestic violence, physical abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, homicide and drunk driving.

- The victim must be a citizen of the United States or legally entitled to reside in the U.S.
- The crime must be reported to the police, child protective services, or other law enforcement agency within 5 days of the crime, unless the victim is physically or mentally unable to file within 5 days.
- The application must be submitted to the VOCP within a year of the crime or within a reasonable time where the victim is unable to apply within one year. Minor victims of sexual assault, molestation or pornography have until age 21 to file an application
- The victim must cooperate with law enforcement during the investigation and prosecution of the crime. Also, a victim cannot have participated in or

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- been involved in committing the crime.
- Applicants for compensation must cooperate with the VOCP.

WHAT MUST I DO TO GET HELP?

A fully completed, signed application is required before assistance can be approved. Incomplete or unreadable applications will not be considered. The application must be completed in black or blue ink (do not use pencil). As noted above, an application cannot be approved unless the crime was reported, and a police report should be provided with the application if possible. (If you submit your application without a police report, the VOCP will attempt to obtain a report for you. If the VOCP is unable, after written request, to obtain a police report based on the information provided in the application, the application will be denied.)

You may download an application and instructions on the website of the VOCP at this link: http://www.voc.nv.gov/Application_and_Instructions.htm.

If you need assistance completing it, you can request help from any of the "Victim Advocate Programs" listed on the VOCP website. If you don't have a printer would like to have an application mailed to you, you may email a request for an application by calling (702) 486-2740 or (775) 688-2900. Send your completed, signed application to:

VOCP
P O Box 94525
Las Vegas, NV 89193-1525

You can also scan and e-mail the completed, signed application to applications@voc-net.com or fax it to (702) 458-5586.

After you submit the application, a Compensation Officer will interview you to determine if you are eligible. (The VOCP has two offices: one is located at 2200 South Rancho Drive, Suite 130, Las Vegas NV 89102; and the other is located at 4600 Information compiled by RAINN and last updated December 2008. For more information, visit rainn.org. © RAINN 2009.

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Kietzke, Suite I-205, Reno NV 89502.) You should bring along to the interview any insurance information, medical bills, earning statement for proof of income, and a record of your monthly living expenses (copies of mortgage, rent, power, telephone, etc.).

WHAT COSTS MAY BE PAID?

Available benefits include medical (hospital and ambulance bills, medical and dental treatment, medically necessary equipment such as a wheelchair, prescription medication) home health care, and mental health/therapy counseling. The program also can provide monetary assistance for lost wages if you are unable to work due to the crime or, in the case of dependents of a deceased victim, loss of support. Funeral expenses, emergency shelter and relocation costs, Insurance co-payments, crime scene cleanup, childcare costs incurred because of the crime, vision prosthetics and eyeglass replacement, and home security repair also may be covered.

The program cannot pay for the following crime-related expenses:

- Expenses for lost or stolen property or cash.
- Property damage.
- Any expense not directly related to the crime.
- Any expense payable by insurance or any other source.
- Damages for pain and suffering.

The program is a payer of last resort, which means that it can only reimburse crime-related expenses that are not covered by other sources (e.g., all other insurance, Medicaid or other forms of assistance). There are limits on individual benefits and no claim may exceed \$35,000. The program also has a monetary case cap of \$50,000 per victim that is set by state law. In addition, there are limitations on some categories of benefits. For example, counseling expenses are limited to \$3,500; funeral costs are limited to \$2,500; and there is a maximum of \$300 per week for lost wages.

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