Financial Assistance for Corrections Officers

The Victim's Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) provides financial benefits to corrections officers, law enforcement officers, first responders and others who work in the front lines of criminal investigations and corrections. In the past four years our Program has paid out more than one million dollars in benefits to employees such as these.

Patricia Dziak, a former Luzerne County Corrections Officer, was brutally assaulted by a prisoner in 2005. The VCAP was able to assist Patricia with co-pays, mileage to medical providers and lost earnings. For more information on Patricia's story, visit our website and go to our Annual Report. www.pccd.state.pa.us >Victims Of Crime>OVS Annual Reports>Current Year report>2009-2010>page 10.

Thirteen million dollars is the approximate annual amount that the VCAP has paid out in benefits for all crime victim claims over the past several years. Losses do not have to be work-related, only crime-related. Any of us can become a victim of crime at any time. For example, DUI drivers cause crashes with innocent drivers. If you have been the victim of a crime, we may be able to help.

Benefits available through the VCAP include, but are not limited to, payment of medical bills, co-pays or deductibles, loss of earnings, counseling, replacement services, child care, reimbursement for travel to medical providers and to court if an offender is charged. In homicide cases, Loss of Support is available for the dependants of victims who suffered fatal injuries.

All available insurances must be accessed before the VCAP can process out-of-pocket expenses.

However, medical insurance and Worker's Compensation often do not cover all losses completely. The VCAP can cover the difference and reimburse you if you have paid some bills yourself. Claimants who are under the age of 60 must have at least \$100 in losses before an award can be made.

Claims must be filed within two years of the crime. The only exception to this rule is a Sexual Assault of a minor. The VCAP does not award for Pain & Suffering, nor do we consider property loss, unless the property is medically necessary, such as eyeglasses, prescriptions and the like.

For more information, call the VCAP at 800-233-2339. Our law enforcement/public safety Claims Specialist in the Direct Victim Services Unit handles law enforcement and corrections officers' claims exclusively and is very familiar with the insurances involved.

Victims Compensation Assistance Program
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