

# You have a right...

...to be paid back for money you had to pay or lost because of a crime. There are two ways you can be repaid, through restitution and compensation.

Restitution is money paid by the person who did the crime to you. Compensation is money paid to you from a program that helps crime victims.

Please contact the Victims Compensation Assistance Program to ask for a compensation benefits application or with any questions.

Victims Compensation Assistance Program  
Office of Victims' Services  
P.O. Box 1167  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1167  
(800) 233-2339 or (717) 783-5153

[www.pacrimevictims.state.pa.us](http://www.pacrimevictims.state.pa.us)

In your local area contact:

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RESTITUTION and VICTIMS COMPENSATION



# Victims asking for restitution can also file for compensation

## RESTITUTION

### WHO CAN GET IT?

Victims of crime who were hurt or had things stolen or broken during a crime.

### WHAT DOES IT PAY FOR?

It may pay for bills from the doctor, hospital, dentist, or counseling. It can also pay for medicine, funeral costs or things you had that were broken or stolen in the crime.

### HOW DO I GET IT?

Contact the District Attorney's Office in the county where the crime happened to find out how to ask for restitution. You will want to keep all bills and receipts for things you had to pay for because of the crime. This will help you get restitution.

### WHEN WILL I GET IT?

Restitution is paid in a different way in each county. Ask the District Attorney's office or probation department in the county where the crime happened.



## COMPENSATION

### WHO CAN GET IT?

Victims of crime and their families.

### WHAT DOES IT PAY FOR?

It may pay for money you paid or have to pay for medical bills, counseling, lost work earnings, loss of support, funeral expenses, travel costs, childcare, stolen cash, relocation, the costs to cleanup a crime-scene and other expenses. It does not pay for things you had broken or stolen in the crime, unless they were medical things.

### HOW DO I GET IT?

You must file a claim with the Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP). Their contact information is on the back of this brochure. You can file a claim by yourself by filling out a claim form or online at [www.dave.state.pa.us](http://www.dave.state.pa.us). Victim advocates can also help you file for compensation and give you forms. You will want to keep all bills and receipts you have because of the crime. These will help you get compensation.

### WHEN WILL I GET IT?

It usually takes less than three months.

### *Can I file for restitution and compensation at the same time?*

Yes. You will not be paid twice for the same thing. If compensation pays you first, then the person who did the crime will pay back the compensation program. If you get money from compensation and then restitution, you must pay back the program.

### *Where does the money come from?*

The money paid to victims by compensation is from fines that every criminal in Pennsylvania must pay. While it is a government program, the money paid to victims does not come from the government or taxes.

### *Can I be repaid if the person who did the crime is not arrested or found guilty?*

You cannot receive restitution, but you may be eligible to receive compensation. A judge must order restitution while you may file for compensation anytime after a crime.

### *Can I get paid for my pain and suffering?*

Only through a civil suit against the person who did the crime. You cannot get this paid by restitution or compensation.