

# Criminal Injuries Compensation

*Hope in your time of need.*

A program of the Tennessee Department of Treasury

**Are you an innocent  
victim of violent  
crime in Tennessee?**

**There may be help.**



David H. Lillard, Jr.  
State Treasurer

## **A Resource for Victims**

If you or someone you know has been an innocent victim of violent crime in Tennessee, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund may be a financial resource for you.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund was established as a fund of last resort to financially assist innocent victims of violent crime in Tennessee that results in personal injury. In the case of death, dependent relatives may be eligible for compensation. The program has paid out \$301.2 million in claims to victims and their families since 1982.

**The mission of the Tennessee Department of Treasury  
is to invest in the *well-being* of Tennesseans.  
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund  
is one way we hope to do so.**

  
**\$301.2  
million**  
paid to victims since 1982

Victims and claimants who meet eligibility requirements may be reimbursed for medical expenses, loss of wages, funeral expenses and other unforeseen costs related to the crime.

This brochure contains general information, and is not intended to be used as a sole source. Please visit [treasury.tn.gov/injury](http://treasury.tn.gov/injury) for more information on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program.

## Who is Eligible?

Individuals may be eligible for financial assistance if they are:



### The Victim

- The victim of the crime  
(the individual who received personal injury)



### Relatives

- A dependent relative of a deceased victim
- The relative of a homicide victim who received mental health counseling
- A relative responsible for funeral/burial costs
- A sibling or parent of a victim of child sexual abuse who has received counseling
- A victim's child who witnessed domestic violence against the parent and received counseling



### Administrator

- The administrator of a deceased victim's estate



### Preventing Crime

- Someone who was injured trying to prevent crime or apprehend a criminal



**Additionally, a victim must meet the following conditions to be eligible for compensation:**

- The crime must be reported to authorities within 48 hours unless victim is a minor or there is good cause.
- The crime must have happened in Tennessee.
- The victim's actions cannot contribute to the crime.
- The victim/claimant must fully cooperate with police and efforts to prosecute.
- A claim must be filed within one year of the crime, unless there is good cause.

## ELIGIBLE VERSUS INELIGIBLE

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND



Covered



Not Covered



Medical Bills



Lost Wages



Funeral and Burial Expenses



Loss of Financial Support  
to Dependents



Pain and Suffering



Moving Expenses

Deposits, Rent, and  
Utility Bills



Travel to Doctor  
Appointments



Costs from Identity Theft  
or Fraud



Lost, Stolen or  
Damaged Property



Costs Covered By:

- Health Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Life/Burial Insurance
- Sick/Vacation Pay
- Workers' Comp
- Court-Ordered Restitution
- Donations
- Home-Owner's Insurance
- ANY other public or private resource

Based on state law, some restrictions apply.

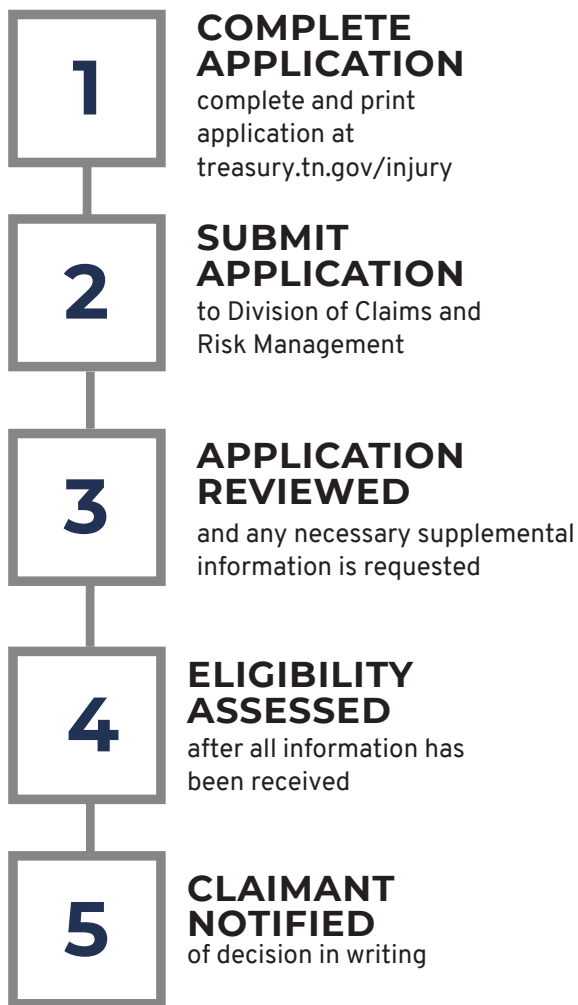
Visit [treasury.tn.gov/injury](https://treasury.tn.gov/injury) or call (615) 741-2734 for a full list of eligible and ineligible expenses.



## Apply for Compensation

In most cases, a claimant (individual applying for compensation) is the individual responsible for payment of expenses associated with the crime. Legal guardians must file claims for those under 18 or those incapable of filing on their own behalf.

Below is the process:



Additional information and applications are available in both English and Spanish at [treasury.tn.gov/injury](https://treasury.tn.gov/injury).



[treasury.tn.gov/injury](https://treasury.tn.gov/injury)  
(615)741-2734

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the maximum compensation?

The maximum benefit of combined expenses for a victim and/or other eligible persons is \$32,000 for crimes occurring on or after July 1, 2017.

### Should I file a claim if my bills have been paid by insurance?

It depends. The program is a fund of last resort, and can only consider those portions of a bill that are not covered by another source.

### Do I need a police report?

Yes, or another official document to show the crime was reported appropriately.

### Does an arrest have to be made before I file a claim?

No. It is possible the offender may not be identified or arrested.

### Must the case in court be finished before I file a claim?

No. In fact, the trial may not be finished until after the time limit to file a claim has expired.

### How are payments made?

Payments may be made directly to the service provider, or, in some cases, directly to the victim.

### How are awards paid to a minor?

Usually, an award that is paid directly to a minor is placed in trust with the juvenile court. The court will determine if the funds may be used before the child reaches age eighteen.

### Are victims of car/boating accidents eligible?

If the victim is injured in one of these specific crimes: DUI, fleeing the scene of an accident (with a serious injury), or a driver intentionally struck the victim. Certain exclusions apply for passengers riding with an intoxicated driver.

### Who are the eligible relatives?

As defined by law, the victim's "relatives" include the spouse, parent, grandparent, stepparent, child, grandchild, brother, half-brother, sister, half-sister, and the spouse's parents or stepparents.

### How long does it take to process a claim?

Each situation is unique depending on circumstances such as complexity of claim and current volume. Claims are typically processed within 90 days, but incomplete applications, missing documentation, and suspended claims may delay the process.

**Help is available to you at any point in this process. Contact our **Customer Service Representative** with any **questions, comments, or concerns.****



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