

**Crime Related Expenses**  
The Virginia Victims Fund

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**Agenda**

- Name
- Organization Basics
- What can we cover?
- Who can apply?
- How does it work?
- Protections for Claimants
- Forensic Exam Payment

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**Name Transition**



**Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund**  
Easing the Burden for Crime Victims



**VIRGINIA VICTIMS FUND**  
Helping Injured Victims of Crime  
OFFICELY CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND

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### What is CICF?

- Created in 1977 by the Virginia Compensating Victims of Crime Act § 19.2-368.1.
- We are Virginia's victim compensation program, every state has one
- Access to file is guaranteed in Virginia's Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act
- Funded by fines and fees levied on convicted felons and federal grants under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)\*\*\*\*\*NO TAX DOLLARS!!!

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### What can we cover?

- Medical expenses
- Funeral expenses
- Lost Wages
- Prescriptions
- Crime Scene Clean-up
- Moving
- Temporary Housing
- Replacement of prosthetics
- Loss of support
  - Offender
  - Homicide
- Mileage
  - to medical appointments
  - to court for child victims
- Counseling
  - Direct victims
  - Children who witness DV
  - Grief counseling
- Other "reasonable and necessary" expenses

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### Who can apply?

A person who has suffered a physical injury as the result of any crime  
OR  
an emotional injury as the result of a violent felony

and meets all the following criteria:

- Innocent (not engaged in criminal activity that leads to their injury)
- Crime occurred in Virginia (or to Virginia resident somewhere without victim's compensation program)
- Reported to law enforcement within 5 days (unless good cause)
- Cooperates with law enforcement and Commonwealth's Attorney
- Files with CICF within 1 year of the incident (unless good cause)

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### How do we make a decision?

- Eligibility (police reports & correspondence)
- Document financial losses (bills)
- Affirm that care/losses are related to the crime (medical and other records)
- Examine collateral resources to determine victim/claimant responsibility (hospital financial assistance/ insurance documents)
- *Claimants are required by law to exhaust applicable collateral resources.*

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### How is payment rendered?

- Directly to the provider, unless paid out of pocket
- We cannot pre-pay for services
- We can award in installments if treatment is ongoing
- The claim never dies, as long as there are new crime related expenses
- Our maximum award is \$25,000
  - We will negotiate bills to try to avoid maxing out a claim.

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### How does a victim apply?

- Submit a Claim Form, make sure it's notarized!!!
- Adults file on their own behalf
- Parents/guardians file on behalf of minors
- Anyone paying for a funeral can file
- Obtain a Claim Form by:
  - Contacting your local Victim/Witness Assistance Office
  - Contacting us to mail one
  - Downloading and printing from our website

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## Protections for the Claimant

- No collection activity while a claim is open
- Payment from CICF is payment in full
- Ensures victim's expenses are covered without continued contact with the offender

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## The SAFE Payment Program

- "SAFE" stands for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam
- Pays for the collection of forensic evidence
- Different eligibility requirements than CICF
- Documentation submitted directly by the provider, usually a Forensic Nurse Examiner
- The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) says victims **shall not** pay for their forensic exam, and they can have a physical evidence recovery kit (PERK) collected without reporting to or cooperating with law enforcement

*Yes, this means a sexual assault victim has two claims.*

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## Forensic Medical Exams

### Supreme Court of Virginia

- Suspect PERKs\*
- Child/Elder physical abuse/assault\*
- Domestic assault\*
- Gun shot wounds\*
- Any other forensic exam for any other purpose\*

### The SAFE Payment Program

- Sexual Assault VICTIM Forensic medical Exams (SAFE)
  - Acute (exam done within 72-96 hours of crime; PERK completed)
  - non-acute (exam done more than 96 hours after crime)\*

\*Require authorization by law enforcement or prosecutor.  
NOTE: CPS, physicians, parents/guardians not allowed by law to authorize an exam that will be paid by the state.

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**We would love to hear from you!**

If you would like further training, contact me!

- 804-482-7051
- [brienna.stammer@cicf.virginia.gov](mailto:brienna.stammer@cicf.virginia.gov)

For help with filing or claim status

- 1-800-552-4007
- [cicfmail@cicf.virginia.gov](mailto:cicfmail@cicf.virginia.gov)

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**W. JACKSON RITCHIE**  
**DIRECTOR**



Post Office Box 26927, Richmond, VA 23261 ♦ 800.552.4007 ♦ 804.823.6905 (Fax)

## WHAT IS THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND?

If you or a loved one has been an innocent victim of a crime, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) can provide financial reimbursement for crime-related expenses to ease some of the financial burdens you may face.

No one thinks crime will happen to them, but when it does it can be life-changing. You may not be able to work because of an injury, you may have medical bills piling up, or you may be scared to be in your own home.

### WHAT MAY BE COVERED?

- Wage Loss
- Domestic Loss of Support
- Funeral/Burial Expenses
- Installation of Security Systems, Doors or Locks
- Temporary Lodging
- Prescriptions
- Prosthetic Devices (such as eyeglasses or dentures)
- Counseling
- Dental/Medical Expenses
- Moving
- Crime Scene Clean-up

***The Fund does not reimburse for property or stolen money.***

### YOU SHOULD APPLY IF...

- You had a physical or emotional injury due to a violent crime
- You were the payer of funeral expenses due to a violent crime
- The crime occurred in Virginia
- The crime occurred outside of the United States, but you are a Virginia resident
- The crime was reported to police
- You have been cooperative with the police investigation and criminal court case
- You were not participating in illegal activity during the time of the crime
- You did not provoke or willingly participate in the crime

***There is no income guideline to be eligible.***

## THE PROCESS FOR COMPENSATION

1. Get an application by doing one of the following:
  - Contact your local Victim Witness Program- they can help you through much of the process
  - Print the application from our website at [www.CICF.state.va.us](http://www.CICF.state.va.us)
  - Have an application mailed to you by calling 1.800.552.4007
2. Fill out the application, have it notarized, and return to CICF by mail or in person.
3. You will receive a letter from CICF asking for any additional information, if needed. Once all necessary documents are collected, you will receive a decision letter on your claim. ***Please be aware it could take up to 6 months.***
4. Any reimbursement owed to you will arrive via check within 30 days of the award letter. If the money is owed to the provider, CICF will pay them directly.

**For more information: [www.CICF.state.va.us](http://www.CICF.state.va.us) or 1.800.552.4007**



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## ¿Qué es el Fondo de Indemnización por Lesiones Causadas por un Crimen?

Si usted o algún ser querido ha sido víctima inocente de un delito grave o crimen, el Fondo de Indemnización por Lesiones Causadas por un Crimen (CICF) puede reembolsar dinero para gastos incurridos debido a un crimen y así aliviarle algunas de las dificultades económicas a las que podría enfrentarse.

Nadie piensa que podría ser afectado por un crimen pero cuando sucede, esto puede cambiarle la vida. Es posible que no pueda trabajar debido a una lesión, que tenga cuentas médicas acumulándose o podría incluso tener miedo a estar en su propia casa.

### ¿Qué Puede Cubrir el Fondo?

- Pérdida de salario
- Pérdida de apoyo en el hogar
- Gastos de funerales/entierro
- Instalación de sistemas de seguridad, puertas y llavines
- Alojamiento temporal
- Recetas
- Dispositivos prostéticos (como lentes o dentaduras postizas)
- Terapias
- Gastos dentales/médicos
- Mudanza
- Limpieza del lugar del crimen

***El Fondo no reembolsa por propiedades ni dinero robado.***

### Usted Debe Hacer la Solicitud si...

- Sufrió una lesión física o emocional debido a un crimen violento
- Pagó los gastos de funerales de un fallecido a consecuencia de un crimen violento
- El crimen ocurrió en Virginia
- El crimen ocurrió fuera de los Estados Unidos pero usted es un residente de Virginia
- El crimen fue informado a la policía
- Ha cooperado con la investigación policial y el caso en el tribunal criminalista
- Usted no estaba participando en alguna actividad ilegal en el momento del crimen
- Usted no provocó ni participó adrede en el delito

***No hay pautas de ingreso para cumplir con los requisitos y recibir este servicio.***

## El Proceso de Indemnización

1. Obtenga la solicitud a través de una de las siguientes formas:
  - Comuníquese con el Programa de Testigos de Víctimas (Victim Witness Program) de su localidad. Ellos pueden ayudarle durante la mayor parte del proceso.
  - Imprima la solicitud que está en nuestro sitio web: [www.CICF.state.va.us](http://www.CICF.state.va.us)
  - Llame al 1.800.552.4007 y solicite que se le envíe una solicitud por correo.
2. Llene la solicitud, haga que un notario público la notarice y envíela por correo o llévala personalmente al CICF.
3. Recibirá una carta del CICF solicitando más información, si fuera necesario. Una vez que se hayan obtenido todos los documentos necesarios, recibirá una carta con la decisión tomada en su reclamación. ***Tenga presente que este proceso podría tomar hasta seis meses.***
4. Cualquier reembolso que se le deba llegará por medio de un cheque dentro de un plazo de 30 días a partir de la fecha de la carta de adjudicación. Si el dinero se le debe al proveedor, el CICF le pagará directamente al mismo.

Para obtener más información, visite el sitio [www.CICF.state.va.us](http://www.CICF.state.va.us) o llame al 1.800.552.4007



## Itemized Statement/Bill Description

1. Provider(s) name, address, and phone number

2. Patient Name/Account Number

3. Date(s) of Service (actual dates services were provided)

4. Description of the service provided

ABC Hospital, LLC  
 1234 Your Street  
 Anywhere, VA 23223  
 (123) 456-7890 Phone number  
 (789) 345-6780 Fax number

Patient Name:  
Jane Doe  
Account number:  
123

Date of Service	Description/Code	Amount
07/01/2011	Initial Hospital Care-High Comp	\$525.00
07/01/2011	Doppler Echo Exam, Heart	\$72.00
07/01/2011	Transthoracic Echocardiography	\$247.00
07/01/2011	Anesthesiology, Surgery of Femur	\$2070.00
07/01/2011	X-Ray Exam of Thigh	\$37.00
07/14/2011	Insurance Payment	\$2000.00
07/15/2011	Insurance Payment	\$800.00
<b>Total Charges adjusted/paid by insurance</b>		<b>\$2951.00</b>
<b>Patient Responsibility</b>		<b>\$151.00</b>

5. Usual and Customary Charge for each service provided

6. Total Charges adjusted/paid by insurance

7. Charges Due after insurance if applicable

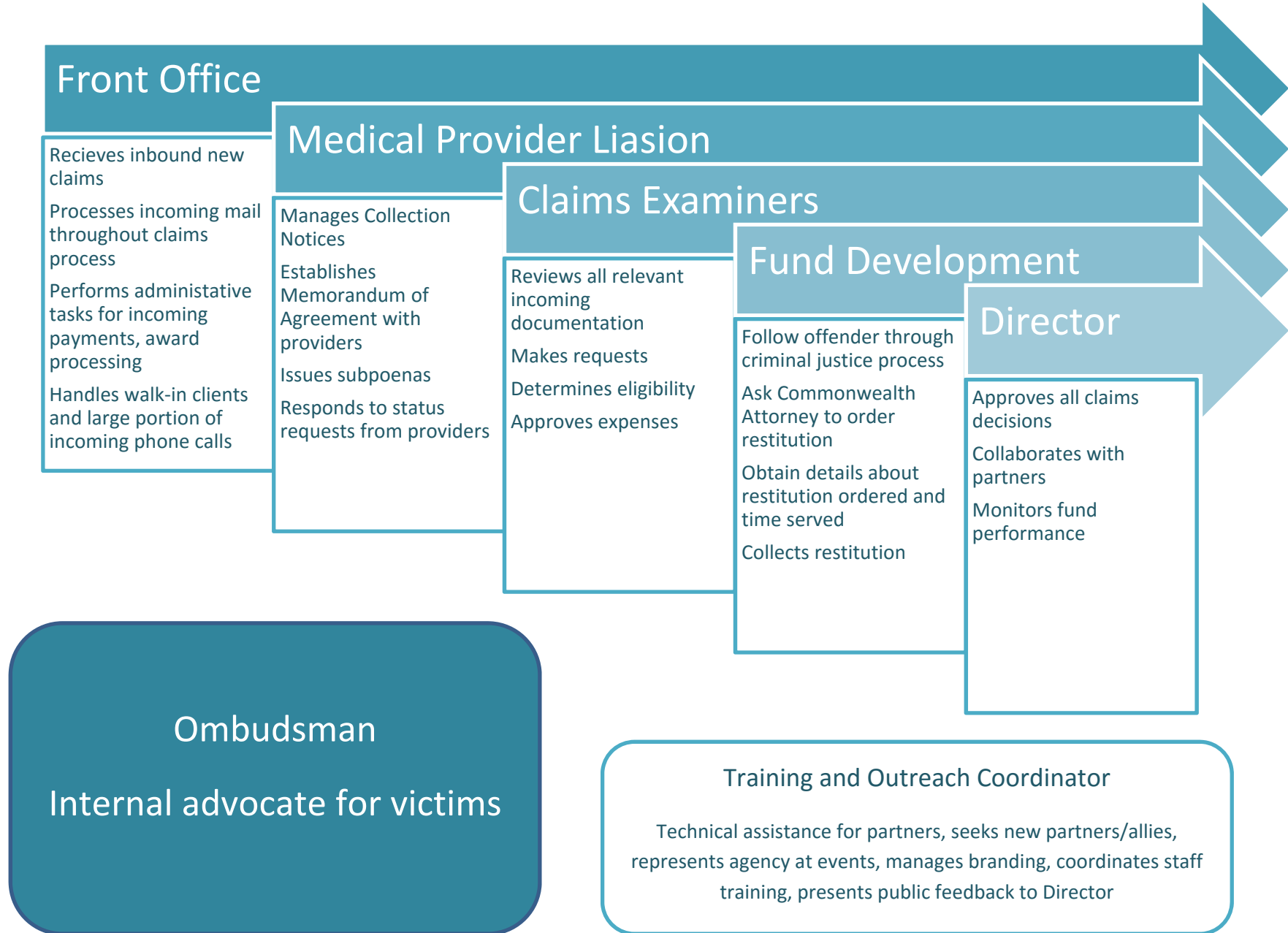


# The Claims Process



A Division of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission

Web: [www.virginiavictimsfund.org](http://www.virginiavictimsfund.org) • Mail: P.O. Box 26927, Richmond, Virginia 23261 • Phone: 1.800.552.4007 • Fax: 804.823.6905





**In Virginia**, if you have been raped or sexually assaulted:  
**You have the right** to seek evidence collection **at no cost to you**;  
*and,*

**You have the right** to have evidence collected through a Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) **without** participating in the criminal justice system or cooperating with law enforcement or prosecution efforts.<sup>1</sup>

### The **SAFE Payment Program** will pay for:

- Emergency Room Physician fees
- Hospital and forensic examiner fees
- Testing for sexually transmitted infections (STI) and pregnancy
- Medications to prevent STIs and pregnancy
- Ambulance ride to a hospital for evidence collection<sup>2</sup>
- Full course of HIV preventative medication if warranted
- Follow-up medical care while taking HIV preventative medication
- Follow-up medical forensic examinations

**Your healthcare provider should submit all required information**, including a detailed billing statement **directly** to the SAFE Payment Program. You should only receive a bill if:

- You decided not to have evidence collected
- You had injuries or existing medical conditions that required treatment
- You have any follow-up care, other than what is listed above

If you have any questions or receive a bill, you can **contact the SAFE Payment Program at 1.800.552.4007**.

### Testing and Storage of Evidence

If you choose not to report the crime, your Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) will not be tested and will be stored for a minimum of two years.

If and when you choose to report the crime, the police will take custody of your PERK and send it to the forensic lab for testing within 60 days of the request. You have the right to check the status and know the results of the testing.

Make sure your contact information is current with the investigator and/or the Commonwealth's Attorney assigned to your case.

The **Virginia Victims Fund** may be able to help you with the following costs as well:

- Moving or home security expenses,
- Lost wages,
- Counseling expenses,
- Replacement of clothing and/or bedding seized as evidence,
- Replacement of glasses or other prosthetics, and more.

To obtain a claim application or for more information, please visit [virginiavictimsfund.org](http://virginiavictimsfund.org) or call 1.800.552.4007

### **Additional Resources:**

- The Family Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline – 1.800.838.8238
- Department of Criminal Justice INFO-LINE – 1.888.887.3418

<sup>1</sup>Evidence collection or medical forensic examinations completed more than 3-5 days after the crime require authorization by law enforcement or a prosecutor. Generally, PERKs are completed within 3-5 days of the crime.

<sup>2</sup>From a hospital or facility that is unable to provide evidence collection services.

## SAFE (Sexual Assault Forensic Exam) Payment Program vs. Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF)

The SAFE Payment Program process is distinctly different from CICF, with a different governing policy. Both policies can be accessed at [www.cicf.virginia.state.us](http://www.cicf.virginia.state.us). The chart below highlights the differences.

	SAFE claim process	CICF claim process
<b>How is a claim initiated?</b>	Submitted directly by providers.	Victim must complete CICF claim application. Notary signature required.
<b>Who is responsible for providing required information?</b>	Providers are responsible for submitting required documentation in order to perfect the claim. Required documents include the completed 2-page Request for Payment Form, itemized detailed bill and explanation of insurance benefits paid/denied (when applicable).	While CICF exhausts every attempt to obtain required documentation, the claimant is ultimately responsible. Required documents vary depending on the expenses but at a minimum include police reports and Police/Sheriff Report Form.
<b>Is the victim required to report the crime and cooperate with all investigation and prosecution efforts?</b>	Victims are not required to report the crime, nor participate or cooperate with the criminal justice process to have a forensic exam or for that exam to be paid for. However, chronic child sexual abuse cases do require prosecutor or law enforcement authorization.	Victims must report the crime within 120 hours or show good cause. Victims must cooperate with all investigation and prosecution efforts.
<b>What is the time allowance for filing a claim?</b>	Providers must submit all required claim documentation within one (1) year from the date of service.	Victims must apply within one (1) year from the date of crime or otherwise show good cause.
<b>What expenses are eligible for reimbursement?</b>	Applies only to services related to the collection of forensic evidence through a medical exam on a victim of sexual assault. Generally this includes: hospital/nurse/physician fees; ambulance fees to transport a patient to a facility with the capacity to perform the forensic exam; and STD/pregnancy testing and prophylactic treatment.	Applies to costs associated with death or physical or emotional injury as a direct result of a crime (such as homicide, robbery, sexual assault, physical assault, etc.) including but not limited to: treatment of injuries and follow-up care, mental health counseling, loss of wages, funeral expenses, moving expenses, etc.
<b>Who receives payment for eligible expenses?</b>	Since providers should direct-bill the SAFE Payment Program, the payment will be made to the provider.	Expenses are paid to the entity that is owed the amounts due. If a provider is unpaid, payment will be made to the provider. If a claimant has paid out-of-pocket for an expense, payment will be made to the claimant.
<b>What if the patient has been put into collections?</b>	Providers are prohibited by law from putting a patient into collections once a claim has been filed until a decision has been made. Since this is a direct-bill process, victims should not receive billing statements nor be placed into collections; however, in the event it does happen please contact the SAFE Payment Program.	Providers are prohibited by law from putting a patient into collections once a claim has been filed until a decision has been made. CICF's Medical Provider Liaison can assist with stopping collection action.