

In cases of rape and sexual assault: expenses covered by SAFE vs. VVF

| EXPENSE TYPE | covered for evidence by SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAM (SAFE) | crime-related expenses covered by VIRGINIA VICTIMS FUND (VVF) |
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| Physician | Emergency room physician fee only | Any physician fees that arise from necessary treatment |
| Hospital | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency or forensic level fee • Testing and prophylactic medication for sexually transmitted infections (STI) and pregnancy • Complete blood count and metabolic panel if patient receives HIV preventative medication • Medication for nausea or vomiting • One dose of sedative, tranquilizer, or anti-anxiety medication • Alcohol and drug testing when part of the criminal investigation | Expenses for crime-related treatment such as radiology, psychological treatment, surgical expenses, and other crime-related hospital services |
| Transportation | Ambulance transfer from a facility unable to complete the medical forensic examination to a facility that can complete the examination | Ambulance transport from crime scene, home, or other area following the crime. Air transport, mileage to/from appointments related to the crime including investigative and prosecution appointments |
| Prescription | Up to a 28-day supply of HIV preventative medication and anti-nausea medication | Any prescriptions received for treatment of physical and/or emotional injuries due to the crime |
| Follow-Up Care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up forensic exam • Limited medical care while the patient is taking HIV preventative medication to include physical examination by a physician and lab testing to monitor patient's health | Any follow-up medical and/or psychological care for the treatment of physical and/or emotional injuries, as well as follow-up testing for sexually transmitted infections (STI) and pregnancy testing due to the crime |
| Other | VVF may also assist with reimbursement for time missed from work, temporary housing and moving expenses up to \$2,000, certain home security expenses, replacement of clothing or bedding seized as evidence, crime scene clean-up, and replacement of eyeglasses, hearing aids, or other medically necessary aids damaged or destroyed during the crime | |

SAFE Payment Program and Virginia Victims Fund Comparison Sheet

| SAFE Claims | | VVF Claims |
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| What is the purpose of the program? | Pay expenses for gathering evidence through a medical forensic examination for victims of sexual assault. | Pay crime-related expenses for victims who have suffered physical or emotional injury due to a violent crime. |
| How is a claim initiated? | Medical providers submit the Request for Payment Form to SAFE. | The victim or their claimant submits a VVF claim form. |
| Who is responsible for providing required information? | Medical providers. Required documents: Request for Payment Form, itemized detailed bill, and an explanation of insurance benefits paid/denied (when applicable). | VVF will obtain the complete police report and court case information. The victim is responsible for providing expense-related information. |
| Is the victim required to report the crime and cooperate with investigation and prosecution efforts? | No, with an exception. Victims are not required to report the crime nor participate with the criminal justice process. However, forensic examinations for non-acute sexual assault cases do require prosecutor or law enforcement authorization. | Yes. Victims must report the crime within 120 hours, or show good cause, and must also cooperate with all investigation and prosecution efforts. |
| What is the time allowance for filing a claim? | Within 1 year from the date of service. | Within 1 year from the date of crime, or show good cause. |
| What expenses are eligible for reimbursement? | Expenses directly related to the collection of evidence through a medical forensic exam. See second page for complete list of eligible expenses. | Expenses 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, wage loss, funeral expenses, moving expenses, etc. |
| What is the maximum amount of reimbursement? | No maximum, but subject to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on file with provider. | Maximum total award is \$25,000, subject to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on file with provider. |
| When should an expense be submitted through insurance? | The claim must be submitted through federally funded insurance before claim can be reimbursed by SAFE. The victim may choose whether to bill private insurance. | All collateral resources including federally funded insurances, private health insurance, and hospital charity care must be utilized before the claim can be reimbursed. In some cases, claimants must submit expenses to homeowners, renters, automobile, life, or other insurances. |
| Who receives payment? | Payments are made to the medical provider. | Expenses are paid to whom the money is owed. If a provider is unpaid, payment will be made to the provider. If a claimant paid out-of-pocket for expenses, payment will be made to the claimant. VVF does not pre-pay for any services. |
| Can providers pursue collection action against the victim while claims are pending? | No. Providers are prohibited by law from putting a patient into collections after a claim has been filed, until a decision has been made. | No. Providers are prohibited by law from putting a patient into collections after a claim has been filed, until a decision has been made. |
| When can payment be expected? | Within 30 days after approval of payment. Payment is issued by the Virginia Department of the Treasury. For requests of status, email safe@virginiavictimsfund.org . | VVF makes a decision within 180 days from the application filing date. Payment is issued by the Virginia Department of the Treasury. For requests of status, email status@virginiavictimsfund.org . |
| What happens if a claim is denied? | If a medical provider disagrees with a decision, they may submit a request for reconsideration. | A claimant must submit a request for reconsideration within 45 days of the denial date. |