



Loss of Support and The Victims Compensation Assistance Program

The Commonwealth's Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) is committed to helping victims and their families ease the financial burden crime imposes upon them. An individual who, as a result of the death of the direct victim, is deprived of the financial support that the victim had been required by court order to provide or had actually been providing at the time of the injury that caused the death may apply.

A maximum payment of \$20,000 per crime can be reimbursed for loss of support. Surviving spouses, dependent children, and surviving parents can all be considered for loss of support if they can provide documentation that verifies that the deceased was financially supporting them. Any other individual is eligible if they can provide documentation that verifies that the deceased was providing their principal support (50% or more of claimant's living expenses). Loss of support can also be considered for those 18 years or older but under the age of 23 years and attending secondary school or is a full-time student in a post-secondary education institution.

To be considered for reimbursement for loss of support, the following needs to be provided:

- A copy of the Court Order showing the amount of support ordered, as well as the amount of back payments due to the claimant.
- Full name and complete address of the victim's employer
- Federal tax returns showing formal dependency.
- Birth certificates for dependent children.
- Statements for benefits received as a result of the death of the direct victim, such as life insurance, Social Security benefits, or pension/annuity survivor benefits.
- Additional documentation may be requested as needed.

The payment process:

- All required documentation must be received before any payments can be processed. The quicker VCAP receives the requested information, the sooner any payments can be made by VCAP.
- Payments owed to the claimant that total \$5,000.00 or less are released within 2 business days of being approved. Any remaining portion above \$5,000.00 is released from the PA Department of Treasury within 2-4 weeks of being approved.

If you have any questions regarding eligibility or additional services, please contact VCAP.

- Telephone number: (800) 233-2339
- Fax: (717) 787-4306
- Email address: ra-davesupport@pa.gov