



## GEORGIA CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION ANSWERS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

While no amount of payment can erase the painful memories of a violent crime, we hope this program will help ease some of the financial burdens you face. Eligible applicants may receive compensation benefits to help with medical and dental care, mental health counseling, economic support, crime scene clean-up, and funeral expenses for up to \$25,000 when the costs are not covered by other sources.

### YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE

- If you are a victim of sexual assault, the parent or guardian of a minor sexual assault victim, or someone who has taken responsibility (or is listed as a guarantor) for debt incurred as a result of a sexual assault, you may be eligible to receive financial assistance from the Georgia Crime Victims Compensation Program.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- The sexual assault must have been reported to proper authorities (law enforcement, hospital or appropriate sexual assault forensic medical provider) within 72 hours of the victimization. If the sexual assault took place after May 12, 2008 CVCP can use documentation from the forensic-medical provider or hospital to show the services the victim received within 72-hours of the crime.
- The victim must file an application for consideration of CVCP within 1 year of the crime, unless good cause is shown (A claim submitted 3 years after the victimization cannot be considered).

**Please Note:** We understand the decision to report a sexual assault is not always an easy decision to make; keeping this in mind, sexual assaults not reported within the 72 hour timeframe may be waived for good cause.

### BENEFIT CATEGORIES AND CAPS

- Medical/Dental Expenses – up to \$15,000
- Counseling Expenses – up to \$3,000
- Funeral Expenses – up to \$3,000
- Economic Support for Lost Wages and/or Loss of Support – up to \$10,000
- Crime Scene Clean-Up – up to \$1,500

These are the maximum amounts that an eligible claimant may qualify for in each benefit category (the maximum program amount is \$25,000 per victim based on eligible expenses).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q** How can I get reimbursement for wages I lost because of the victimization?
- A**
- Show proof that you were gainfully employed at the time of the victimization.
  - Provide official documentation showing how much you earned 60 days prior to the victimization.
  - Provide official documentation from your employer showing you missed work and the pay lost due to the victimization (additional documentation will be required if you are self employed).
  - Provide records from a physician or a licensed mental health professional that provided treatment at the time of the victimization stating you had to be out of work.
- Q** If I did not report my sexual assault to the police, can I still apply?
- A** If the sexual assault occurred after May 12, 2008 you are not required to have a police report to apply for the CVCP. The program may use documentation from the forensic medical exam which shows that a sexual assault occurred. A police report is required if you were assaulted prior to May 12, 2008.
- Q** Who will pay for forensic medical exam of a sexual assault victim?
- A** GA law requires law enforcement to pay for the forensic medical examination and evidence collection for anyone sexually assaulted in Georgia, regardless of whether they participate in the criminal justice system or cooperate with law enforcement.
- Q** Will CVCP pay for medical expenses not covered by law enforcement?
- A** If eligible, CVCP can pay for follow-up care and other medical expenses related to the sexual assault not covered by other sources for up to \$15,000 (Please see Benefit Categories and Caps for more covered expenses).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This document only outlines some of the eligibility requirements for the program. There may be other factors that are not mentioned in this document that might make you ineligible. If you have any questions, or if you would like an application, please call the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council at **(404) 657-2222** or **(800) 547-0060**. You can also visit our website at [cjcc.ga.gov](http://cjcc.ga.gov).