

COMPENSATION FOR OLDER CRIME VICTIMS

Crime can affect anyone, at anytime, and almost anyplace. Imagine:

- An 80-year-old woman was pushed to the ground and had her purse snatched, with \$200 and her eyeglasses in it.
- A 69-year-old man paid \$500 for a vacation over the phone. When he was to depart, the bus never showed up and he realized he had been scammed.
- A woman hired a contractor to fix her roof. She paid a \$1000 down and the contractor never showed up to do the work.

These are just a few of the more common crimes that cause older victims to file compensation claims. They are also the types of crimes where the Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) is able to offer financial help.

What types of crimes may be eligible for compensation?

Burglary, robbery, theft, theft by deception, identity theft, homicide, assault, physical and sexual abuse, and certain motor vehicle crimes, such as Driving Under the Influence are examples.

What benefits do older crime victims most often use?

- ✓ Replacement of cash that has been stolen or defrauded from the victim.
- ✓ Payment of hospital bills, doctor and or dentist bills, physical therapy charges, medications, and ambulance bills.
- ✓ Payment to repair or the replacement of eyeglasses or other corrective lenses, hearing aids, canes, walkers, and dental devices either stolen or damaged as a result of the crime.
- ✓ Payment for home nursing care (including personal hygiene) and services provided by someone who replaces services the victim normally provided himself/herself, but cannot due to the crime.

Where can you get more information and assistance?

Information on Pennsylvania's Victims Compensation Assistance Program can also be obtained by calling 800-233-2339 or at www.pccd.state.pa.us, and clicking on the "Victims" tab.