If you’re reading this, chances are someone who cares has given you this brochure because you or someone close to you has been a victim of crime. This program helps pay out-of-pocket medical expenses, lost earnings, funeral bills or counseling for people who suffer physical injury as a direct result of a crime.

CAN YOU BE HELPED?

Yes, if you are:

• A person who was injured as a direct result of a crime in Michigan.
• A sexual assault victim.
• A person who was injured while trying to help a crime victim.
• A surviving spouse, parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, brother or sister of a person who dies as a direct result of a crime.
• A Michigan resident injured in another state that doesn’t pay compensation for a non-resident.
• A Michigan resident injured outside the U.S. by an act of international terrorism.

WHAT KIND OF FINANCIAL HELP MAY BE AVAILABLE?

Injury-related expenses that a person must legally pay and other eligible losses that can be proved with supporting papers and other evidence.

For the injured person:

• Hospital bills and medical expenses.
• Loss of earnings.
• Counseling for the injured person and family members.
• Replacement services needed because of the person’s injury.
• Rehabilitation.
• Medical forensic exam.
YOUR CLAIM IS ASSIGNED A CLAIM NUMBER AND YOU WILL HAVE TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION.

CLAIMS FOR CHILD ABUSE SHOULD BE FILED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE DATE OF THE INJURY.

PAYMENT OF THE VICTIM’S SEXUAL ASSAULT FOR LOSSES AND EXPENSES.

ALL PAPERS AND RECORDS RECEIVED IN OUR OFFICE ARE REVIEWED BY A CLAIM SPECIALIST.

A person cannot have committed or be an accomplice to the crime.

INMATES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

A claim will be rejected if the victim caused the injury or was doing something illegal and dangerous at the time of the injury.

A longer time to file a claim will be allowed after a written request shows good reason. Good reason could be that the victim was a child or injuries were more serious than first thought or if someone helping the victim didn’t follow through with the claim.

You don’t have to wait until the investigation or trial is over.

You don’t need a lawyer. If you use a lawyer, it is at your own expense.

Your claim is assigned a claim number and we notify your prosecuting attorney that you filed a claim. We send for police reports and other papers we may need.

All papers and records received in our office are reviewed by a claim specialist. How long it takes depends on how accurate and complete your application is, and how long it takes to get other information we need to investigate.

You will receive a written decision with the record and findings of your claim. If your claim is approved, the decision will show itemized payments and payments will be made within a few days. If you owe money to your medical providers, we will pay the providers. If your claim is denied, the legal reasons for the denial will be explained to you.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO SEND IN?

A fully completed application.

Itemized copies of all bills you want to claim. If you need more medical treatment, see if your doctor can give a written estimate of future expenses.

If you have insurance or Medicare, send copies of your insurance benefit statements for all expenses.

For lost earnings, send copies of recent payroll check stubs and a written disability statement from your doctor.

For burial assistance, send a copy of the signed itemized funeral bill.

For counseling, ask your therapist for the assessment, a treatment plan, and an itemized billing or estimate.

For loss of support, send check stubs or the last tax return of the person who died, the social security survivor’s benefit and life insurance statements.

If you’re not sure what to send, just send in your completed application and we’ll let you know what is needed.

WHAT IF YOUR CLAIM IS DENIED?

You have 30 days to write to us to disagree. You may ask for a review of the file or a hearing before the commission in Lansing. The decision by the commission is final.

WHAT'S NOT COVERED BY SAFE RESPONSE

$600.00 for a forensic exam. You will not have to pay for your own forensic exam.

Sexual Assault Forensic Exam

LIMITS ON PAYMENTS:

The SAFE Response Program will pay up to $600.00 for a forensic exam. You will not be billed for additional costs related to the forensic exam.

WHAT'S NOT COVERED BY SAFE RESPONSE

If you have other injuries or want counseling, you may be eligible for help through the Crime Victim Services Commission compensation program.

WHO PAYS?

Money to support this service is paid by criminal defendants convicted in Michigan’s courts. The state also receives money to help crime victims from criminal fines collected in federal courts.

DON’T GIVE FALSE INFORMATION

It’s a crime to give false information to try to get money from the state. Many safeguards are in place to protect crime victim funds. We will forcefully pursue the arrest and conviction of anyone trying to cheat crime victims from the money the State of Michigan provides for them.

VICTIM’S RIGHTS

are protected by the Constitution of the State of Michigan. See your prosecuting attorney for more information.