



Greetings!

The Department of Crime Victim Compensation (DCVC) needs your help! DCVC seeks to hold all offenders financially accountable to victims for their criminal actions. We are starting this quarterly newsletter to inform you, the advocates, what we need to make this work. First of all, some basic tenets of our work:

- ◆ We encourage state courts to order restitution, in all cases where its appropriate, to help make victims whole
- ◆ We encourage the criminal justice system to hold offenders accountable to pay their court ordered restitution. There are numerous studies that support the benefits to offenders righting the wrong they caused by paying for victims' losses through restitution
- ◆ DCVC's mission is: *To minimize the impact of crime in South Carolina by providing financial compensation to eligible crime victims and their families.* Due to the unsure nature of restitution, compensation is the state's effort to make victims whole on the front end by awarding funds collected from all criminals through a fine or fee
- ◆ When DCVC awards benefits to a victim where restitution is also ordered, DCVC needs the Court to put the Restitution order in the name of DCVC
- ◆ This will help protect the solvency of the Crime Victim Compensation Fund for current and future victims.

To help us accomplish our mission, please consider the following:

- ◆ Make sure you contact a Restitution Coordinator prior to attending and presenting victim information in court. The Coordinators can give you up to date information on DCVC payouts to victim/claimants
- ◆ Help hold the offender accountable by making sure restitution is ordered at the time of sentencing (if possible) by the presiding Judge to either the victim, or if they have received compensation, to DCVC
- ◆ Help us make sure that any financial burden is placed on the offender not the victim!

For more information, please call DCVC and ask for the Restitution Coordinator in your county!

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Note: Please let us know if you do not want to continue to receive our quarterly EBlasts! or send us the email of someone who should be receiving it. Thank you!

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