

# What if...



## ***...I will have more bills coming in?***

Please have your provider submit all crime related medical claim forms for payment consideration within 12 months from the date of service. However, after 18 months if there is no activity, your claim will be closed.

## ***...I have medical insurance?***

The State Office of Victim Assistance is the payer of last resort. If the victim has insurance and elects not to use his/her insurance for treatment, SOVA will not cover the cost. It is the provider's responsibility to ensure that other avenues of payment are explored and used.

## ***...my property was damaged in the crime?***

SOVA cannot pay for any property that is damaged, unless it is a medically necessary item such as a pair of eyeglasses or a walking cane. SOVA can pay for items that a doctor prescribes for recovery purposes, such as a wheelchair or crutches.

## ***...I have been in a car accident?***

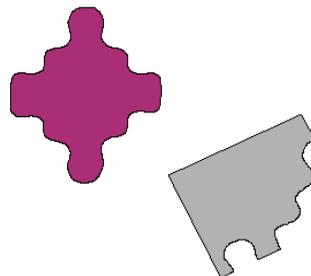
If the accident is considered criminal, that is, if the other driver is charged with a crime such as Hit and Run, Driving Under the Influence (DUI) or Reckless Homicide, then you may be eligible.

## ***...I do not qualify?***

If you do not qualify, you will be notified that your claim has been denied and you will receive a packet of information describing how to appeal SOVA's decision.

## ***...I wish to appeal a decision?***

If you wish to appeal, follow the instructions in the "appeal packet" and send it to SOVA within 30 days.



Revised 7/15

## **Has a crime against you or a family member cost...**

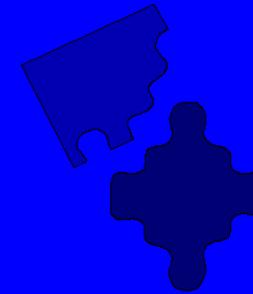
**medical or dental care?**

**mental health counseling?**

**lost wages from missed work?**

**funeral or burial expenses?**

***If you can answer "yes" to any question above, then we may be able to help you pick up the pieces...***



## **State Office of Victim Assistance**

**Edgar Brown Building, Room 401  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201**

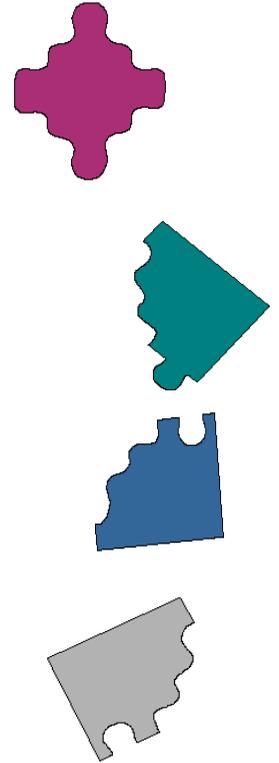
**Phone: 803.734.1900 ♦ Fax: 803.734.1708  
Business hours victim line: 800.220.5370**

**Click on [www.sova.sc.gov](http://www.sova.sc.gov) for  
Payment & Reimbursement at a Glance**

*What you need to know about...*

## **Crime Victims' Compensation**

***If you have been injured by violence, we may be able to help you put the pieces back together.***



### What is Crime Victims' Compensation Fund?

The South Carolina Crime Victims' Compensation Fund is a financial assistance program designed to help victims with expenses directly resulting from a crime that are not covered by other payment sources. It is administered by the State Office of Victim Assistance (SOVA), and is governed by state and federal laws. If you qualify for the program, it can pay certain costs for recovery treatment or burial arrangements up to the maximum allowed by law.

### Do I automatically get paid as a crime victim?

No. When the application is sent to SOVA, your eligibility is determined by laws that govern the compensation fund. SOVA tries hard to help an eligible victim qualify under the law.

### If I qualify, what can you pay?

SOVA can help with certain types of crime related costs. In every case, the expense has to be linked to losses from injury or death as a result of the crime.

**\*Up to a combined total of \$15,000 for:**

#### Medical Costs

- ◆ Doctor ordered medicine, equipment, supplies and treatment
- ◆ Dental or orthodontic work
- ◆ Other costs such as physical rehabilitation, reconstructive surgery, and transportation (mileage) to doctor appointments

#### Counseling (from a licensed professional)

- ◆ Clinician must confirm that trauma resulted from the crime
- ◆ Payment is based on fee schedule

#### Burial bills for a deceased victim

- ◆ Reimbursement limit is \$4000
- ◆ Some funeral costs may not be covered
- ◆ Copy of Death Certificate is required

#### Lost Wages / Loss of Support

If you have not been able to work for at least two weeks in a row because of your injuries or to take care of a victim, then you may be eligible for Lost Wages or Loss of Support payments.

- ◆ You may be eligible if you are the victim, the victim's dependent or spouse
- ◆ Please call our office to see if you are eligible for Loss of Support payments

### What doesn't SOVA pay?

SOVA cannot pay for property damage (to include crime scene cleanup or items taken as evidence), any expenses related to going to court (to include legal fees or transportation), or "pain and suffering."

### When will I know if I qualify?

After you have sent us the application you will be notified by us that you are eligible or ineligible. If you are eligible you will receive a "Notice of Award" that will list how much SOVA is going to pay on the bills you submitted. You may receive many of them while your claim application is active.

### Do family members qualify?

If one of your immediate family members is a victim, you may qualify for counseling or receive a percentage of your wages if you request to stay out of work to take care of him/her. If you paid the funeral bill for a family member who was a victim, you may be eligible to receive up to \$4,000.

### Is SOVA in the same office as my advocate?

No. Your victim advocate is probably in your own county or community. SOVA is a state level governmental office located in Columbia. But, SOVA still works closely with advocates, service providers, and others who help victims across the state.

### Will law enforcement be involved with my claim?

Yes. Law enforcement will be contacted to confirm the facts of the case and provide additional information. Your claim cannot be processed without a copy of the law enforcement incident report.

### Is the program paid for by taxpayers?

No, the program is funded by fines, fees and assessment funds.