

SOVA

Our Mission

The mission of SOVA is to assist eligible crime victims and their families in putting the pieces of their lives back together.

SOVA will also provide training regarding its services to victims, law enforcement, agencies, crime victims advocates, and the public.

State Office of Victim Assistance
Edgar Brown Building, Room 401
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: 803.734.1900
Fax: 803.734.1708

Victims' Line: 1.800.220.5370
(8:30am - 5pm, M - F)

<http://www.sova.sc.gov>

SOVA



SOUTH CAROLINA
State Office of
Victim Assistance

Rooted in *justice*
Guided by *law*
Propelled by *humanity*

Who we are...

Who we are ...

The State Office of Victim Assistance is committed to providing comfort, assistance and guidance to victims of crime and service providers throughout the state. Government is about leadership, and this office is uniquely equipped to provide just that through the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund. SOVA shares the responsibility in making sure victims get the help they need and are treated with respect and dignity.

We have provided assistance to many thousands of victims of crime for over 20 years. SOVA staff are dedicated to providing assistance in a manner where individuals will not have to relive the pain which caused them to initially contact SOVA. It is our goal to ensure that the privacy, dignity and general well-being of victims of crime are protected and respected during this process.

Those who prey on innocent citizens must be held accountable through the course of the criminal justice system and should be punished accordingly. As traumatic and painful as it may be, in order to ensure justice for all, victims of crime must be willing to participate in the criminal justice process in order for the perpetrator to receive the just punishment. It is during this most difficult period of time that court advocates and SOVA can be a comfort to those of you who are suffering.

While we hope that you or someone you love will never become a victim of crime, in the event that you do, we ask that you contact this office immediately so that we can help begin the healing process.

Enabling Legislation

SECTION 14-1-203 ~ SECTION 14-1-208

Describes the various courts in the South Carolina Court System (Magistrate, General Sessions, Family and Municipal) and how money is flowed from these courts to help fund SOVA.

SECTION 16-3-1110 ~ SECTION 16-3-1350

Spells out the legal definitions of crime and award, eligibility process and awarding claims.

SECTION 16-3-1400 ~ SECTION 16-3-1420

Introduces the Victim/Witness Assistance program at SOVA (additional law in SECTION 16-3-1505 ~ SECTION 16-3-1565)

Find complete SC Code of Laws at:
www.scstatehouse.net

SOVA: <http://www.sova.sc.gov>

SOVA FACTS

- The SC Victims' Compensation Fund was established in 1982 under the Worker's Compensation Fund to provide financial aid to innocent victims of crime and their eligible dependants.
- SOVA is primarily funded by the fines, fees and assessments paid by convicted offenders to the courts.
- The SOVA Training Team travels the state conducting free training for law enforcement, advocates, victim service and health care professionals, educators and civic groups.

Victims' Compensation Fund

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 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 \$4,000
- Certain funeral items may not be covered
- Copy of death certificate is required

Lost Wages / Loss of Support

- If you have lost financial support because you or the household wage-earner has been out of work for over two weeks, then you may be eligible for lost wages or lost support payments
- You may be eligible if you are the victim, the victim's dependent or spouse

*Please call us at **803.734.1900** to discuss how to safely handle this option for you.*