

Hotline



The **Family Violence and Sexual Assault Hotline**: 1-800-838-VADV (8238), can put you in touch with your local victim/witness program, domestic violence program or court service unit. Someone is there to answer your questions any time of the day or night.

Compensation for Victims of Crime

If you are a victim of a crime that took place in Virginia and if you were physically injured during the crime, or if you were injured trying to stop a crime or an attempted crime, or trying to catch a person who committed a crime in your presence, or if your mother, father, guardian, child, wife or husband was killed because of a crime or attempting to stop a crime then you may be paid for certain unreimbursed losses such as:

- loss of earnings
- out-of-pocket medical expenses
- funeral expenses up to \$2,000
- pregnancy expenses resulting from forcible rape
- other expenses and debts resulting from your injury or from death of a crime victim

You must:

- report the crime to the police or other law enforcement agency within 120 hours (or show good cause for not doing so)
- cooperate with law enforcement agencies and the courts
- file a compensation claim within 180 days from the date of the crime (or show good cause for not doing so),
- file an application for payment of medical expenses through State and Local Hospitalization (SLH) within 30 days of release from the hospital, if those expenses are not covered by health insurance.

The prosecutor and/or victim/witness program staff can advise you on how to apply for victims' compensation and, if necessary, assist you with the application. With your signed authorization, the victim/witness program staff may contact staff of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund to follow up on your claim.

For more information or an application, call the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund.

Richmond: 804-367-8686

Toll-free statewide: 1-800-552-4007

Or write:

Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund

Post Office Box 5423

Richmond, Virginia 23220

Definitions

abuser A person who harms or threatens to harm another by physical, emotional, sexual or verbal abuse.

advocate A person who assists crime victims by providing emotional support, counseling, referrals and/or explanation of the services available to them.

assault and battery against a family or household member An act of physical violence committed by one family or household member against another.

assistant commonwealth's attorney A lawyer who works for the commonwealth's attorney to assist him/her in prosecuting criminal and traffic cases; also called a prosecutor.

bailiff A sheriff's deputy assigned to the courtroom to keep order and provide security and safety.

clerk of court A court official who keeps records and office files, and who swears in jurors and witnesses.

commonwealth's attorney A lawyer elected by the people and employed by the state to prosecute criminal and traffic cases; also called a prosecutor.

counsel determination A court hearing at which a judge tells the defendant about the charges against him/her and his/her rights to have a lawyer and a trial. If necessary, a lawyer is appointed to represent the defendant. This proceeding is sometimes called an arraignment.

defendant A person who is accused of committing a crime in a criminal case.

defense attorney The lawyer for the defendant.

domestic violence A pattern of physically, sexually, and/or emotionally abusive behaviors used by one individual to assert power or maintain control over another in the context of an intimate or family relationship.

domestic violence program A program which offers services that are provided (usually 24 hours a day) for women and their children who have been physically or emotionally abused, or who have been threatened with abuse by their spouses or partners. Services include crisis intervention, counseling, shelter, escort to court, food, clothing and transportation.

domestic violence shelter A “safe house” where battered women and their children can stay for a limited period of time. A shelter usually is operated in conjunction with a domestic violence program which offers other support services. (See also domestic violence program.)

emergency protective order (Virginia Code Section 16.1-253.4) May prohibit the abuser from contacting you, entering your home or apartment, or abusing you in the future. This order lasts 72 hours or until 5:00 PM the next day the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (or Family Court) is in session; whichever is longer.

family abuse Any act of violence, including forceful detention, which results in physical injury or places one in reasonable fear of serious bodily injury and which is committed by a person against a family or household member.

family or household member Includes: spouse (regardless of whether you live together); ex-spouse (regardless of whether you live together); parents, children, stepparents and stepchildren, brothers and sisters, grandparents, grandchildren, and in-laws (if you live in the same house); cohabitants (those who live together) and those who cohabited in the past year and their children; and persons who have a child in common (even if you have never lived together).

judge A court official who listens to the case, decides if the defendant is guilty or not, and determines the appropriate punishment.

juvenile and domestic relations district court (or family court)

The court which handles cases involving persons accused of committing offenses against family or household members. This court does not conduct jury trials. All cases are heard by a judge.

law enforcement officer A police officer or sheriff's deputy.

magistrate A court official who has the authority to bring criminal charges for criminal acts based on the sworn testimony of an individual or a law enforcement officer.

permanent protective order (Virginia Code Section 16.1-279.1) May prohibit the abuser from contacting you, entering your home or apartment, or abusing you in the future. This order may also require the abuser to provide for your housing and/or medical treatment or require the abuser to attend counseling. You may also ask to have temporary use of a motor vehicle that is jointly owned by your abuser and you. The order lasts up to two years and must be obtained through the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Service Unit.

preliminary protective order (Virginia Code Section 16.1-253.1) May prohibit the abuser from contacting you, entering your home or apartment, or abusing you in the future. It lasts up to fifteen days and must be obtained through the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Service Unit.

probable cause Reasonable grounds for belief that an accused person has committed a crime.

prosecute To bring criminal action against a defendant.

prosecutor Another name for the commonwealth's attorney or assistant commonwealth's attorney.

subpoena A written, legal order telling a person to be in a court at a specific time and place to give testimony.

victim A person who was mistreated or hurt by an abuser.

victim/witness program A program designed to provide support, answer questions, make referrals and explain the criminal justice process to victims and witnesses of crime.

warrant A written, legal order authorizing a law enforcement officer to make an arrest.

witness A person who testifies under oath as to what he/she knows, has heard or observed about a crime.

**The Number for your local Victim/
Witness Program is:**

**The Number for your local Domestic
Violence Program is:**

**The Number for your Commonwealth's
Attorney's Office is:**

**The Number for your local Court
Service Unit is:**

**Family Violence and Sexual Assault
Hotline:**

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