

Victim's Rights

Law enforcement agencies investigating crime are required by law to notify victims of their right to apply for financial assistance from the Crime Victims Reparations Board. (Minnesota Statute 611A.66)

In addition, the initial notice of the rights of crime victims must be distributed by a peace officer to each victim at the time of initial contact with the victim and should include a phone number to call to request a Reparations application. (Minnesota Statute 611A.02, Subd.2 (b) (1))

Helping the Board

Law enforcement agencies have a legal responsibility to assist the Crime Victims Reparations Board in deciding claims.

"...Law enforcement agencies shall assist the board is performing its duties under sections 611A.51 to 611A.68. Law enforcement agencies within ten days after receiving a request from the board shall supply the board with requested reports, notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in chapter 13, and including reports otherwise maintained as confidential or not open to inspection under section 260B.171 or 260C.171. All data released to the board retains the data classification that it had in the possession of the law enforcement agency." (MN Statute 611A.66)

Eligibility Requirements

Victims must meet several eligibility criteria to be eligible for benefits from the Board, including:

- ♦ Crime reported to police within 30 days (except child abuse and sexual assault)
- ♦ Victim/claimant must have cooperated with the police investigation and prosecution
- ♦ Victim's conduct must not have caused or contributed to the crime

Contributory misconduct includes the following acts that contributed to the injury for which the claim was filed:

- ♦ Using fighting words or other provocation
- ♦ Being a confirmed gang member or using gang hand signs or colors
- ♦ Knowingly riding with a drunk driver
- ♦ Consuming alcohol or drugs
- ♦ Possessing, purchasing or distributing drugs
- ♦ Failing to retreat or withdraw from a situation

What you can do

The Board relies on the law enforcement reports and information from the investigator to make a fair, just and objective claims decision. Please assist the Board by doing the following:

- ♦ Complete and sign the Law Enforcement form
- ♦ Provide investigative reports, including statements from the victim, offender and witnesses
- ♦ Identify the offender, charging information, and county attorney case number so the Board can seek restitution
- ♦ Indicate if the victim's misconduct contributed to the incident, including if the victim was committing a crime at the time of the incident
- ♦ Indicate if the victim did not fully cooperate with the investigation
- ♦ Provide any other information you feel could help the Board make a decision
- ♦ Return the completed Law Enforcement form and reports within 10 days

If you have any questions or are unable to comply with the Board's request in a timely manner, please contact our office at 651-201-7300 or 1-888-622-8799.

The Crime Victims Reparations Board

The Crime Victims Reparations Board is made up of five members, who by law must include a victim of a crime and a physician. Members are appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

The Board meets once a month to review and decide eligibility on claims. The Board has the power to reduce or deny claims that do not meet eligibility requirements and to adopt rules to implement and administer the Reparations Act.

“The significance of law enforcement’s role in responding to crime victims cannot be over emphasized. The way that victims are treated by dispatchers, the first officers arriving at the scene of the crime, and the detectives investigating the case shapes their expectations of how they will be treated throughout the criminal justice process, and their overall opinions of justice officials.”

– New Directions from the Field, Chapter 2 Law Enforcement.

CONTACT US

Office of Justice Programs
Crime Victims Reparations Board
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 2300
St. Paul, MN 55101-1515

Email: dps.justiceprograms@state.mn.us

Website: www.ojp.state.mn.us

651-201-7300 Main
888-622-8799 Toll Free
651-205-4827 TTY
651-296-5787 Fax

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LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE REPARATIONS BOARD

MINNESOTA CRIME VICTIMS
REPARATIONS BOARD



OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY