

Information on financial assistance and compensation under the victim support law

General requirements

The victim and their relatives are eligible under certain circumstances for financial support for the damage suffered physically or mentally, by sexual offences as well by the loss of life. Under certain conditions there is eligibility for compensation as well, when this justifies the extent of the damage. Every canton has its own responsible office. The application for financial assistance and/or compensation is not dependent on a criminal charge. The contributions of the authorities responsible are subsidiary to the payments of a third party. This means that first and foremost the offender or their insurance have to pay for the damage sustained.

The victim support service can help to clarify your situation and if necessary with the submission of your claim. We would be pleased to advise you in a personal meeting.

Here as follows are the most important points:

Financial assistance

The financial assistance under the victim support law covers the material damage which has been caused by a violent criminal act. This includes: loss of earnings, loss of a provider, funeral costs and household damage. Property damage and loss are exempt.

Under certain circumstances a petition for an advanced payment of financial assistance can be submitted. According to victim support law the claims for financial assistance are dependent on the financial situation of the victim.

Compensation

The compensation should make up for the non-material damage which has resulted from a violent criminal act (compensation for personal suffering). The compensation is not dependent on the financial situation of the victim. The claim can be made when a severe impairment resulted from the criminal act. For example this can be:

- after sexual offences, resulting in mental health issues;
- after severe physical injuries with grave consequences or with a prolonged healing process;
- for the bereaved after a murder;
- after suffering massive, continuous abuse resulting in severe mental health problems and restrictions in the daily life of the person concerned.

Deadlines

The claims for financial assistance and compensation have to be submitted within a period of 5 years after the time of the criminal offence. The deadline of 5 years is valid for criminal offences which have been committed since 01.01.2007. For earlier criminal offences the right to claim has usually expired. The responsible authorities decide in special and exceptional cases. We are willing to advise you on the procedure.

The claims usually have to be submitted to the following address:

Departement Volkswirtschaft und Inneres
Opferhilfe
Zwinglistrasse 6
8750 Glarus

Acknowledgement

I hereby confirm that I have been informed by the victim support service of canton Glarus on my rights according to the victim support law on financial assistance and compensation.

Date:

Signature:
