



Have you been
the victim of
violent crime?

Your right to claim compensation

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Who is entitled to claim compensation?

If you are the innocent victim of a violent crime, you have the right to claim compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA). The fact that the offender may not have been caught or prosecuted will not automatically prevent you from making your claim.

Important steps that you must take following the incident:

- Inform the Police immediately and co-operate with them as much as possible.
- Seek medical treatment from your GP or local hospital straight away.
- Try to find out the name(s), addresses, and telephone numbers of any witnesses to the incident.
- Make a careful note of the date upon which the incident happened.

Who is entitled to claim compensation under the CICA Scheme?

- Anyone who is the innocent victim of a crime of violence in Great Britain (including Sexual Abuse).
- Anyone who is the innocent victim of a crime of violence within his or her own family (e.g. a victim of Domestic Violence or Child Abuse).
- Anyone who is the innocent party injured whilst trying (either by themselves or by helping the Police) to prevent a crime or to apprehend a suspected offender.
- Compensation may also be awarded in other special types of incident specified by the CICA from time to time.

Can you claim compensation from anyone else?

Yes, you may be able to apply for the following:

- An order of compensation made by the Criminal Courts, and/or;
- An order for compensation made by the Civil Courts.

How will you be compensated?

If the CICA are satisfied that you have a valid claim, then you may be eligible to receive the following:

- Compensation for the pain and suffering caused by your injury.
- Compensation for your past financial losses:
 - Loss of earnings (including overtime if applicable).
 - The reasonable costs of any private medical, dental and/or optical expenses.
 - The value of any care provided to you by your spouse or partner, relatives or friends.
 - The cost of any special equipment to help you cope with your injuries e.g. a wheelchair.
 - The cost of any alterations or adaptations made to your home, to help you cope with the effects of your injuries.
 - The cost of any damage to property or equipment upon which you would normally rely, e.g. glasses.

Points to note:

Compensation for your financial losses will only be paid if you have been off work or lost earning capacity because of your injuries for a period of more than 28 full weeks from the date of your injury.

The CICA will usually require proof of your financial losses. Therefore, make sure that you keep all relevant documents or receipts safe as proof of your expenditure. Keep doing this throughout the period of your claim.

- Compensation for your future financial losses and expenses including:
 - Future loss of earnings, together with any loss of promotion prospects. Any impact upon a pension may also be assessed.
 - The cost of making sure that you have adequate care in the future, even if it is likely that the care will be provided by your spouse, partner, relatives or friends.
 - The cost of repairing and replacing any special equipment purchased to help you cope with the effects of your injuries.

Who can claim if an innocent victim of crime is fatally injured?

Only certain persons and categories of persons can apply in these circumstances. These are:

- Spouse
- Long term partner (of either sex)
- Parents of victim
- Children of the victim (any age)
- A former spouse who is financially dependant upon the victim

How will they be compensated?

The following types of compensation may apply:

- An award in respect of the fatal injury itself
- An award for the loss of dependency upon the victim
- An award for the loss of parental services
- Reimbursement of reasonable funeral expenses

How do you make a claim to the CICA?

You must submit an application for compensation within two years of the date of the incident. The CICA will allow late claims if you have a good explanation for the delay.

Word of warning:

If any of the following situations apply to you, then the CICA has the discretion either to make you a reduced payment or not to make you a compensation payment at all!

These situations are usually:

- Where you have failed to notify the Police of your Incident either promptly or at all.
- Where you have failed to co-operate with the Police in bringing your assailant to justice, i.e. by failing to give a formal statement to them.
- Where your conduct is mainly, or at least partly the cause of the crime.
- Where you have relevant and/or significant criminal convictions.

What will it cost?

Your first contact with us will cost you nothing! If you are unable to come to our offices because of your injuries we will gladly come to your home or to hospital.

If we feel that your claim has good prospects of success then we may be able to act under a Contingency Fee Agreement (no win no fee). Which means that you will have no costs to pay if your claim is unsuccessful.



All our Solicitors are friendly, approachable and have considerable experience in all aspects of personal injury law. Our Solicitors include members of the Law Society Personal Injury Panel, the Association of Personal Injury Solicitors and the American Trial Lawyers Association.

The Paul Rooney Partnership offers legal assistance in the following areas:

- Road Traffic Accidents
- Personal Injury
- Employment Law
- Criminal Injuries
- Conveyancing

Call 0151 227 2851 for details