



# Victim Compensation & Survivors of Human Trafficking



**VIRGINIA VICTIMS FUND**  
*Helping Innocent Victims of Crime*  
OFFICIALLY CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND

Providing financial assistance to victims of crime since 1977



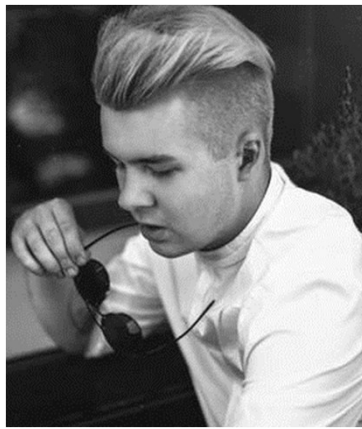
## Training Agenda

- Introduction to Virginia Victims Fund
- Application Process
- Covered Expenses  
*with a focus on Human Trafficking*
- Internal Efforts
- Increasing Access
- Specialized Outreach & Cooperative Agreements

Virginia Victims Fund Phone | (1-800)-552-4007  
Or visit [www.VirginiaVictimsFund.org](http://www.VirginiaVictimsFund.org)  
For more information.

## What is Virginia Victims Fund?

The Virginia Victims Fund (VVF) is a state program created in 1977 by the Virginia Compensating Victims of Crime Act § 19.2-368.1; to help victims of violent crime with out of pocket expenses. These can include medical bills, prescriptions, funeral expenses, and many other expenses.



## Who can apply for Victim Compensation?

A person who has suffered a physical injury as the result of any crime, or has been stalked, or suffered an emotional injury as the result of a violent felony **and** meets all the following criteria:

- Innocent (*not engaged in criminal activity that leads to their injury*)
- Cooperates with law enforcement and Commonwealth's Attorney
- Crime occurred in Virginia (*or to VA resident somewhere without a victim's compensation program*)
- Reported to law enforcement within 5 days (*unless good cause*)
- Files with VVF within 1 year of the incident (*unless good cause*)

## Victims of Human Trafficking

The designation of Human Trafficking Victims by Law Enforcement is a major qualifying element for compensation with Virginia Victims Fund. Once Identified as a survivor or victim of Human Trafficking, claimants are eligible for consideration of all the compensable expenses under the Fund.

## Who Qualifies for Victim Compensation?

"Victim" means a person who suffers personal physical injury or death as a direct result of a crime including a person who is injured or killed as a result of foreign terrorism or who suffers personal emotional injury as a direct result of being the subject of a violent felony offense.

Minors who suffer emotional injuries as a result of witnessing family/domestic violence may be eligible for mental health counseling to process and recover from their trauma.



## How to Apply For Compensation

- 1) Complete the claim form for VVF. The form can be downloaded at [www.VirginiaVictimsFund.org](http://www.VirginiaVictimsFund.org) or call 1-800-552-4007. Make sure the claim form is notarized.
- 2) Once the notarized application is received, it is reviewed by VVF and assigned a claim number.
- 3) You will receive a letter from VVF indicating what documents are necessary to complete your claim.
- 4) Once the necessary documents are received, VVF will make a decision on your eligibility.
- 5) If eligibility, any payments owed to hospitals, physicians and other professionals will be paid to those providers. Any out of pocket expenses related to the crime will be directly paid to the victim.



## How is Virginia Victims Fund Funded

- Court Fines
- Restitution from Convicted Offenders
- Unclaimed Restitution
- Federal Grants
- Private Donations

\*No Tax dollars are used for funding



## Expenses not Covered by VVF

There are some expenses not covered by the Fund. For more information visit [www.VirginiaVictimsFund.org](http://www.VirginiaVictimsFund.org)

- Medical care not related to the crime
- Pain and suffering
- Attorney's fees
- Missed appointments
- Replacing stolen items
- Automobile accidents (except DUI, hit-and-run, vehicle as a weapon)

## What Expenses Can VVF Assist to Pay?

**VVF can assist with crime related expenses, such as:**

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| • Medical & Dental Treatment  | • Mileage to medical appointments |
| • Mental Health Services  | • Moving Expenses                 |
| • Lost Wages  | • Prescriptions                   |
| • Funeral & Burial Expenses   | • Other Crime Related Expenses    |
| • Loss of support for dependents when a victim is disabled or killed as a result of a crime |                                   |



## Internal Efforts

In order to assist staff in strengthening understanding of the complex needs and service barriers for victims of Human Trafficking, Virginia Victims Fund provided in-service training to staff specific to Human Trafficking. This training was conducted by SAFE Harbor, a local Human Trafficking Shelter's Training & Outreach Coordinator.



### Topics covered in training include:

- The complex needs of survivors
- Human Trafficking Myths and Misunderstanding
- Control methods used by traffickers
- Traumatic Stress Reactions and its impact on the claim process
- Barriers to access faced by survivors and the impact they play on a survivor's ability to perfect compensation claims

## Increasing Access

As part of the Fund's broad access approach to outreach, Virginia Victims Fund has sought to:

- Increase reach and improve access for victims of human trafficking across the commonwealth
- Increase access for HT survivors once identified and ensure prompt and proper referrals for victim compensation.
  - Targeted audiences include Healthcare Providers, Law Enforcement, Community-based advocacy groups, Justice & Child Welfare Agencies, Child Abuse & Safety Agencies, and Human Trafficking Programs/Agencies.



With an increased focus on Healthcare Providers as an access and referral source, Virginia Victims Fund has held trainings for Forensic Nurses, Healthcare Providers, and participated in a Healthcare Panel and Roundtable in order to increase awareness of the VVF as a resource for Victims. To date, **26 trainings** have been completed.

## Specialized Outreach

- ☐ Multidisciplinary trainings across service verticals
- ☐ Increasing referrals from non-system based sources such as nonprofits agencies, mental health and medical providers, and welfare agencies.

### Activities Include:

- Providing sponsorship (partnering) to trainings specific to Human Trafficking, underserved populations, and vulnerable populations; includes tabling at those events;
- Additional focus placed on vulnerable and minority populations i.e. children and minority populations;
- Intentional Outreach to Law Enforcement



### Additional Efforts:

- Cooperative Agreements with Virginia Victims Assistance Network Human Trafficking Info-Line
- Cooperative Agreement with Latinos In Virginia Empowerment Center



## We would love to hear from you!

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For help with claim filing:

Phone: 800-552-4007

[info@VirginiaVictimsFund.org](mailto:info@VirginiaVictimsFund.org)

For Medical Providers checking status of payment

[status@virginiavictimsfund.org](mailto:status@virginiavictimsfund.org)

\*Please allow 30 days for a response