



Funeral Expenses and The Victims Compensation Assistance Program

Eligible Funeral Expenses for Reimbursement:

- Cremation
- Interment
- Body preparation, including embalming
- Grave opening and closing
- Cemetery plot, tent and chairs
- Mausoleum
- Viewing services and facilities
- Automotive equipment, such as the hearse, limousine and flower car
- Death announcements, prayer cards, register books and thank you cards
- Casket or urn
- Minister, pastor, rabbi or other members of the clergy
- Monument
- Floral arrangements
- Funeral or memorial meal
- Clothing purchased for the deceased
- Other miscellaneous expenses, including organist, programs, death certificates, obituary notices, etc.

The Commonwealth's Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) is committed to helping victims and their families ease the financial burden crime imposes upon them. An individual, who as a result of a crime, assumes the responsibility to pay for funeral expense may apply for compensation. A maximum award of \$6,500 per victim can be reimbursed for funeral and/or burial expenses.

To be considered for reimbursement of funeral expenses, the following needs to be provided:

- Itemized funeral contract or statement in the name of the person(s) responsible for the funeral expenses.
- Canceled checks, receipts or verification from the funeral home showing expenses were paid by the responsible person(s).
- Benefit statements or payments received by the person(s) responsible for the funeral expenses as a result of the death, such as life insurance or Social Security death benefits.

The payment process:

- All required documentation from the funeral home must be received before any payments can be processed. The sooner VCAP receives the completed and accurate information from the funeral home, the sooner any payments can be made by VCAP.
- If payment is owed to the provider, VCAP will send payment directly to the provider. Payments owed to the provider are released from the PA Department of Treasury within 2-4 weeks of being approved.
- If payment has been made by the victim/claimant, payment will be sent to the victim/claimant. Payments owed to the victim/claimant that total \$5,000.00 or less are released within 2 business days of being approved. Any remaining portion above \$5,000.00 is released from the PA Department of Treasury within 2-4 weeks of being approved.

If you have any questions regarding eligibility or additional services, please contact VCAP.

Telephone number: (800) 233-2339

Fax: (717) 787-4306

Email : ra-davesupport@pa.gov