

7 FAM 1960 CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE, COMPENSATION PROGRAMS, AND RESOURCES

*(CT:CON-99; 12-22-2004)
(Office of Origin: CA/OCS/PRI)*

7 FAM 1961 CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE

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Thousands of specialized victim assistance programs have been established throughout the U.S. to provide crisis intervention, counseling, emergency shelter, emergency transportation, and criminal justice advocacy and information to crime victims. Assistance programs often include rape crisis counseling, shelter or other resources for battered women and child abuse diagnostic treatment facilities. These programs are often available to local residents who have been victims of crime while traveling abroad. Services are often provided at little or no cost to the victim. Some states also provide compensation to victims of crimes that occurred overseas. See state-by-state compensation programs on-line and see "Victim Compensation Programs" tabs in the "Consular Assistance to Victims of Crime Resource Notebook," on the CA/OCS Intranet feature.

7 FAM 1962 CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION

(CT:CON-99; 12-22-2004)

- a. Crime victim compensation can be a crucial financial resource for many Americans traveling abroad. All states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have a crime victim compensation program that reimburses their residents who are crime victims for certain expenses that result from crime and who are not covered by insurance. These primarily include medical and medical evacuation, counseling, funeral and burial expenses, and loss of support for dependents of homicide victims and lost wages. However, not all programs cover incidents of crime that occurred abroad.
- b. Oftentimes, the money is not available up-front, and funding/reimbursement may take weeks or months.

- c. Approximately 30 countries have “crime victim compensation” programs for their citizens; some even have compensation programs for foreign nationals victimized in their jurisdiction. You may wish to develop a handout/Web site regarding compensation programs available in the host country. See “Foreign Victim Compensation Programs” Tab in the “Consular Assistance to Victims of Crime Resource Notebook,” on the CA/OCS Intranet feature.

Victim compensation is money paid from a public fund to victims to reimburse certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred as a direct result of a violent crime perpetrated against them.

7 FAM 1962.1 Assisting Victims with Compensation Programs

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- a. Consult with CA/OCS/ACS to facilitate contact with the state compensation program or to identify other U.S. resources.
- b. The victim must submit directly to the state compensation program:
 - (1) A completed and signed application;
 - (2) A police report; and
 - (3) Documentation of expenses with receipts.
- c. The Department of Justice’s Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) was established by the 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to oversee diverse programs that benefit victims of crime. OVC provides funding to state victim assistance and compensation programs offered in each state - the lifeline services that help victims to heal. They also publish the International Directory of Crime Victims Compensation Programs, which was compiled and written by CA/OCS and posts abroad. See “Foreign Victim Compensation Program” tab in the “Consular Assistance to Victims of Crime Resource Notebook”, on the CA/OCS Intranet feature.

7 FAM 1962.2 Terrorism and International Victims Unit (TIVU)

(CT:CON-99; 12-22-2004)

- a. The Department of Justice has also established the Terrorism and International Victims Unit (TIVU) which is responsible for developing programs and initiatives regarding assistance to victims of terrorism and to victims of crimes involving transnational dimensions, such as victimization of tourists, trafficking of adults and children for sexual or

work exploitation, and international child abduction victims. The TIVU staff is responsible for coordinating OVC resources and funding for victims of terrorism and for administering the new International Terrorism Victims Compensation Program. OVC recognizes that as countries and their citizens become more linked through tourism, Internet usage, and international trade, issues of violent crime and victimization increasingly becomes an international concern and focus.

b. In addition to other responsibilities, TIVU:

- (1) Administers OVC's Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program;
- (2) Provides information, benefits, and services to U.S. nationals who are victims of terrorism abroad;
- (3) Identifies appropriate resources and coordinates OVC funding for victims of terrorism from crisis response stages through post-trial proceedings;
- (4) Is responsible for administering a compensation program for U.S. nationals who are victims of terrorism outside the United States; and
- (5) Develops informational materials for victims of terrorism and transnational crimes.

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