

NIAGARA FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/10/2013	SUBJECT: CRIME VICTIMS	Number 127.00 (NYSLEAP A-29-4)
RESCINDS: 04/15/2003		Number of pages 2

I. Purpose:

- A. Crime victims incur far more injuries than those visible at the time of occurrence. The Niagara Falls Police Department seeks to assist its victims in recovering from all aspects from the crime.

II. Policy:

- A. The Niagara Falls Police Department will strive to provide information, care and support for victims who have suffered physical, emotional or financial injuries or death as a result of a criminal act.
1. Members of the NFPD are required to aid crime victims and encourage them to take advantage of assistance as provided by the New York State Crime Victim's Compensation Law.
- B. Eligibility: The following may be eligible for crime victim compensation:
1. A victim of a crime who,
- a. Has sustained personal, physical injuries; or
 - b. An elderly (sixty [60]) or older, or disabled victim, not necessarily physically injured, who has suffered a loss or damage to articles of essential personal property;
 - c. A surviving spouse, parent, child or person dependent on the victim who died as a direct result of a crime;
 - d. A person who has paid or incurred the burial expenses of a victim;
 - e. A child victim of or witness to a crime or his/her parent, guardian or sibling.

- C. **Filing of a Claim:** A claim may be filed by a person eligible to receive an award or if such person is a minor or incompetent by a relative, guardian or attorney. A police report must have been made to the proper authorities within one (1) week after the crime unless justification for the delay can be shown. A claim for compensation benefits must be filed within (1) year after the occurrence or discovery of the crime unless justification for the delay can be shown.

NOTE: Justification for delay in reporting the crime or filing for benefits is solely the jurisdiction of the Crime Victim's Compensation Board. Claims may be filed by mail to the Crime Victim's Compensation Board address which is listed on each application.

- D. **Compensation Awards:** Awards may cover but not necessarily be limited to physical, emotional or financial injuries based on meeting New York State Crime Victim's Compensation guidelines.
- E. **Responsibility of Police Personnel:** Pamphlets and application forms are available at Police Headquarters for information regarding crime victim assistance. Personnel shall be aware of the procedure for filing for benefits and will assist the victim in completing the application if requested.
- F. **Police Reports Forwarded:** Police reports shall be forwarded by the Records Division upon official request from the local Crime Victim's Compensation Board Office.
- G. All members of the Niagara Falls Police Department shall be issued a pocket guide to emergency services. The guide will be referred to for any outreach programs, crisis programs or victim-witness services resulting from criminal acts.