

Victims Support Scheme

Fact Sheet for Family Members of a Homicide Victim

The NSW Victims Support Scheme provides support to eligible victims of crime in NSW.

This fact sheet provides information about the support available to people who have been affected by a homicide that happened in NSW. If you have been affected by another type of crime, visit the [Victims Services website](#) for information about the support available.

We're here to help

We understand that losing a family member to homicide is a traumatic and painful experience. If you're a family member of someone who has died as a result of a homicide, we can assist you during this difficult time. You can contact Victims Services for free and confidential information, advice and referrals.

The Victims Support Scheme can provide certain family members with:

 <p>Counselling</p>	 <p>Financial assistance for immediate needs</p>	 <p>Financial assistance for funeral expenses</p>	 <p>Financial assistance for justice-related expenses</p>	 <p>A recognition payment</p>
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Family members who may be eligible for the Victim Support Scheme are:

- **Family victims**, who are immediate family members of a homicide victim. This includes current spouses, de facto partners who were living with the victim when they died and had been living with them for at least 2 years, parents, step-parents, guardians, children, step-children, guardian children and siblings.
- **Related family members** who are not family victims. This includes grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins and in-laws.

See the table on page 2 for a summary of the support available, what you need to apply and time frames to apply.

How to apply for victims support

Complete the Application for Support for a Family Member of a Homicide Victim

This application form is available on the [Victims Services website](#).

Provide a copy of your identification

You need to provide a copy of one form of current government-issued identification. This could be a:

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|------------------------------|---|
| • birth certificate | • photo card |
| • Centrelink card | • passport |
| • change of name certificate | • SafeWork licence |
| • driver licence | • SafeWork white card |
| • marriage certificate | • screenshot of your MyGov account or another government account. |
| • Medicare card | |
| • MIN Card | |

Please do not send us the original document. Please ensure the copy or image:

- is clear and not blurry
- captures all parts of the identification
- has the same name on the identification as the application form or has supporting evidence such as a change of name certificate.

If you're unable to access your identification document, please contact us to discuss your options.

Attach evidence of your relationship to the homicide victim

If you are applying for financial assistance or a recognition payment, you need to provide documentation with your application which confirms your relationship to the homicide victim. This could be a birth certificate, marriage certificate, **relationship certificate**, death certificate or Medicare card. If you are claiming as a de facto partner of the homicide victim, you need to provide evidence that shows you were living with them when they died and had lived with them for at least 2 years.

Attach evidence of your financial dependence on the homicide victim

If you are applying for a recognition payment as a family member who was financially dependent on the homicide victim, you must submit at least one document that shows evidence of your dependency.

Attach evidence of expenses you are claiming

If you are applying for financial assistance, you need to provide evidence of the expenses you are claiming, such as receipts and itemised tax invoices. You can complete a [Family Victims Travel Expense Claim](#) form if claiming costs for travel as a result of the homicide.

For more information about the types of documentation to provide, visit the [Victims Services website](#). If the original documents are not in English, you will need to provide the original document and an English translation.

Contact Victims Services






☎ **Call** the Victims Access Line on **1800 633 063** or the Aboriginal Contact Line on **1800 019 123**

✉ **Email** vs@dcj.nsw.gov.au

🌐 **Visit** victimsservices.justice.nsw.gov.au

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, call the National Relay Service on **13 36 77** (TTY) or **1300 555 727** (Speak and Listen).

If you need an interpreter, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **13 14 50**.

Type of support	Who can apply?	What documents do I need to apply?	How long do I have to apply?
 <p>Counselling</p> <p>To help your recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 22 hours of counselling and more for some victims. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family victims. Related family members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application for Support for a Family Member of a Homicide Victim and government-issued identification. 	No time limit applies.
 <p>Financial assistance for immediate needs</p> <p>To help pay for urgent health, safety or wellbeing expenses</p> <p>Up to \$5,000 to help pay for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relocation security upgrade crime scene cleaning travel or accommodation to attend the funeral. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family victims*. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application for Support for a Family Member of a Homicide Victim and government-issued identification. Evidence of your relationship to the homicide victim. Copies of itemised tax invoices or receipts for the expenses you are claiming and a description of how the costs are related to the homicide. Family Victims Travel Expense Claim form (if claiming travel expenses). 	Within 2 years of the death being established as a homicide or within 2 years of turning 18 if the family victim was a child at the time of the homicide.
 <p>Financial assistance for funeral expenses</p> <p>To help cover the costs of arranging a funeral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$9,500 to the homicide victim's family to help cover the costs of the funeral. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family victims*. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application for Support for a Family Member of a Homicide Victim and government-issued identification. Evidence of your relationship to the homicide victim. Copies of itemised tax invoices or receipts for the expenses you are claiming and a description of how the costs are related to the funeral. 	Within 2 years of the death being established as a homicide or within 2 years of turning 18 if the family victim was a child at the time of the homicide.
 <p>Financial assistance for justice-related expenses</p> <p>To help pay for some costs of attending court or coronial hearings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$5,000 to help pay for some costs of attending court or coronial hearings, and other justice-related expenses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family victims. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application for Support for a Family Member of a Homicide Victim and government-issued identification. Evidence of your relationship to the homicide victim. Copies of itemised tax invoices or receipts for the expenses you are claiming and a description of how the costs are related to the homicide. Family Victims Travel Expense Claim form (if claiming travel expenses). 	Within 2 years of the death being established as a homicide or within 2 years of turning 18 if the family victim was a child at the time of the homicide.
 <p>Recognition payment</p> <p>To acknowledge the homicide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$15,000 for financially dependent family victims or children under 18 at the time of death. \$7,500 for parents, step-parents or guardians, current spouses, or de facto partners of a homicide victim. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financially dependent family victims and children of the homicide victim who were under 18 years at the time of the homicide. Parents, step-parents, guardians, current spouses or de facto partners of a homicide victim. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application for Support for a Family Member of a Homicide Victim and government-issued identification. Evidence of your relationship to the homicide victim. Evidence of financial dependency (if you are applying as a family member who was financially dependent on the victim)[^]. 	Within 2 years of the death being established as a homicide or within 2 years of turning 18 if the family victim was a child at the time of the homicide.

* Service providers, such as funeral directors and forensic cleaners, can apply for financial assistance for immediate needs (crime scene cleaning) and financial assistance for funeral expenses. If payment is approved, this amount will be paid from the amount of financial assistance available to an eligible family victim.

[^] This is not required if you are a child of the homicide victim and were under 18 years of age at the time of the homicide.

Important information

Some people are not eligible for victims support, even if they are a victim of crime. For more information on persons who are not eligible, see section 25 of the [Victims Rights and Support Act 2013](#).



There are also circumstances where support may be declined or the amount reduced. For more information on those circumstances, see section 44 of the [Victims Rights and Support Act 2013](#).

Factors to be considered under section 44 include, but are not limited to:

- any behaviour on the part of the deceased which has directly or indirectly contributed to their death, including past criminal activity
- any money the applicant has received from another source in relation to the violent crime, including under an insurance policy or other agreement.