

What is Restitution?

Restitution is compensation paid to a victim by the perpetrator of a criminal offense, who has been found guilty or pleaded guilty to that offense, for the financial losses incurred as a direct result of the crime.

Under Pennsylvania law, restitution must be ordered in a specific amount at the time of sentencing. Restitution may include, but is not limited to, reimbursement for medical/dental bills, counseling expenses, loss of wages, damage or loss of personal property, and relevant incidental expenses.

Restitution may NOT be claimed for mental anguish or pain and suffering.

Who May Claim Restitution?

Restitution may be claimed by anyone who has been the victim of a crime or is the parent or guardian of a minor who has been a victim of a crime and has suffered injuries, economic loss or damages. It is the right of all victims in the state of Pennsylvania to be restored, to the extent possible, to their precrime status.

Receiving Payments

After a defendant is sentenced, he/she may make restitution payments in full or may set up monthly payment plans with the Perry County Probation Department. Payments are then distributed to victims on a monthly basis. Restitution must be paid in full prior to the termination of supervision under a probation/parole plan. If your address changes after restitution has been ordered, please advise the Perry County Probation Department at 717-582-5125 to prevent disruption in the receipt of your payments.

Assistance

If you need assistance completing your restitution claim form or have questions regarding eligible expenses, contact the Perry County Victim Witness Program.

Perry County Victim Witness Program,
a program of the YWCA Greater Harrisburg

**P.O. Box 518
New Bloomfield, PA 17068
717-582-5122**



Perry County Victim Witness Program



Restitution

A crime victim's guide
to claiming financial
compensation

What Expenses Can Be Claimed?

Claims for restitution may be submitted for the following items which were a direct result of the crime:

- **Medical expenses (doctor, ambulance, therapy, medications, medical supplies, wheelchair, glasses, hearing aids, etc.)**
- **Dental expenses**
- **Counseling expenses**
- **Loss of earnings (for physical or mental disability if certified by doctor and court appearances under subpoena)**
- **Stolen or damaged property (broken windows, televisions, clothing, jewelry, automobiles, stolen cash/bad checks, etc.)**
- **Funeral expenses**
- **Insurance deductibles or co-pays**
- **Incidental expenses (changing locks, towing fees, bad check charges, etc.)**
- **Any expense you incur as a direct result of the criminal offense**

If you have questions as to whether an expense is eligible for compensation, contact the Victim Witness Program at 717-582-5122.

What Expenses Cannot Be Claimed?

You may not claim restitution for the following items:

- **Pain and suffering**
- **Mental anguish**
- **Security equipment/devices for crime prevention and/or detection**
- **Lost wages for court appearances (unless under subpoena) or police interviews**
- **Any expense that has been recouped through other**



means, such as insurance, worker's compensation, vacation, sick or disability pay, or civil lawsuits

- **Replacement of nonequivalent property (e.g., replacing wood door with metal door)**

You may not claim restitution for crimes that have not been charged against the defendant nor seek to collect for damages that are not a result of the crime(s) specifically charged against the defendant.

Requesting Restitution

The Victim Witness Program will provide you with a restitution claim form once your case has been sent to the trial courts. You should complete the form in its entirety, including a listing of each item or expense with a description of the item and its value.

This form **MUST** be completed and returned in order to verify losses, insurance payouts, recovered property, etc. If you have submitted estimates to law enforcement, please indicate such on the claim form in order to ensure that your estimate gets submitted to the court. Once you have completed and signed your claim form, return it along with supporting documentation such as estimates, bills or receipts to:

**Perry County Victim Witness Program
P.O. Box 518
New Bloomfield, PA 17068**

Please be advised that a restitution claim is a request to the court to order restitution on your behalf. Ultimately, it is the court's decision as to what restitution will be granted. As such, it is very important for you to be as descriptive as possible on your claim form and support your claim with documentation of financial loss (e.g., estimates, bills, receipts.)