

You can apply to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) for compensation if you are the survivor of a violent crime that has taken place in Ontario.

You can apply for compensation if you have suffered physical, mental, emotional or psychological injuries as a result of a crime of violence, including

- assault
- sexual assault
- child abuse
- domestic violence
- murder

Charges do not have to have been laid against an offender, nor is a conviction required, to apply for compensation. It is only necessary to show it is more likely than not that your injuries are a result of a crime of violence and not some other cause. A statement from a friend or family member, letter from a doctor or counsellor or CAS records can be used to support your claim.

If an offender was convicted, the CICB will accept that a crime of violence occurred.

### **Are there any limitation dates I need to be aware of?**

There is no time limit for bringing a claim if you were a victim of sexual assault or domestic violence or were abused by someone you were dependent on. In all other cases an application should be started within two years of the crime.

However, the CICB often grants extensions of time when there is a good reason to do so. For example, you can ask for an extension of time if you did not know about the CICB or were too upset to bring a claim.

### **Will CICB notify the offender?**

The CICB will notify an offender if there has **not** been a criminal conviction.

They will provide an offender with additional information if the offender requests it, such as the hearing date and a copy of the application. Medical reports are not normally provided to offenders, and the CICB will never give an offender your contact information.

## How much can I be awarded?

Although the maximum award is \$25,000, this amount is rarely awarded. When there are multiple incidents, the CICB will usually give a “global award” for the cumulative effects of all the abuse suffered.

The CICB can provide compensation for you to receive counselling. This money is payable directly to a therapist of your choice.

## Do I need a lawyer?

You do not need a lawyer to apply for compensation at the CICB. However, a lawyer or paralegal from a community legal clinic can guide you through the CICB process.

## How long does the process take?

The process takes approximately one year. However, if there is more than one crime and/or offender, your case may take more time.

An application can be obtained through the CICB website at [www.sjto.gov.on.ca/cicb/](http://www.sjto.gov.on.ca/cicb/) or by phoning the CICB directly at 1-800-372-7463.

More information about the CICB is available on the CICB website or the websites below:

- Community Advocacy & Legal Centre  
[www.communitylegalcentre.ca/legal\\_information/CICB.htm](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/legal_information/CICB.htm)
- Your Legal Rights  
<http://yourlegalrights.on.ca/legal-topic/criminal-law/criminal-injuries-compensation>

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This tip sheet, written by staff or volunteer lawyers with the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC), provides general legal information only about current laws. If you need legal advice you should contact a lawyer. If you are living on a low income you may be eligible for free legal help. Contact your local community legal clinic if you need help with income programs, workers' or tenants' rights, consumer problems, or human rights. Call CALC at 1-877-966-8686 or visit [www.communitylegalcentre.ca](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca). If you have a criminal, family or immigration law problem, contact Legal Aid Ontario at 1-800-668-8258 or visit [www.legalaid.on.ca](http://www.legalaid.on.ca).

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*Your community legal clinic*