

# CaIVCB Victim Advocate Newsletter

January 2023

We are looking forward to a wonderful and collaborative 2023 with all of you! Thank you for your hard work on behalf of victims. Please let us know if you have questions, comments, or suggestions for future editions. Email us at [infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov](mailto:infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov).

## Reminders

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- Sign up for the **advocate training** on Jan. 24 from 1 to 3 p.m.
- State offices are closed Jan. 16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Are you signed up for **Morning Coffee**? Receive a brief daily email with news articles of interest to CaIVCB.
- CaIVCB's next board meeting is Jan. 19.

## Out-of-State Mental Health Compensation

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Victims who qualify for mental health services will now be able to receive reimbursement for out-of-state treatments.

The change took effect on Jan. 1, 2023, as a result of Senate Bill 877. CaIVCB can now reimburse the cost of mental health counseling services performed by providers who are licensed in the same state in which the victim lives. Previously, reimbursements were limited to mental health providers with California licenses.

## National Crime Victims' Rights Week Planning

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Many of us are in the planning stages for National Crime Victim's Rights Week, which will take place April 23-29. Please include CaIVCB in your plans and contact us at [PAORequests@victims.ca.gov](mailto:PAORequests@victims.ca.gov) if you have an event we can participate in or promote for you.

## Training Schedule

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Outreach specialist Cindy Kaiser is currently submitting proposals to attend trainings, workshops, panel discussions, and conferences during 2023.

Do you have an event you would like her to attend? Is there a specific training you and your team would like to request? Now is the time to contact her! Email [infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov](mailto:infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov).

## Advocate Accuracy

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We need your help to keep our directory and Cares2 accurate. If an advocate joins your team, or an advocate leaves your group, email [infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov](mailto:infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov), so we may update our contact list and revise roles within Cares2.

Also, if you don't log into your Cares2 account for 90 days or more, it will automatically be deactivated. Email [infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov](mailto:infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov) to have it reactivated.

## Mental Health Forums

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The CalVCB Mental Health team has tentatively scheduled several forums in January and February to assist you and help answer questions about the recent **guideline and rate changes**.

- Wed., Jan. 25: 3-4:30 p.m.
- Tues., Feb. 7: 10-11:30 a.m.
- Wed., Feb. 22: 1:30-3 p.m.

To register for an upcoming forum, please email [ProviderForums@victims.ca.gov](mailto:ProviderForums@victims.ca.gov) with your name, title, organization, email and phone number.

## Mental Health Forms

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The following forms have been updated as a result of the changes to the mental health guidelines. You can find these on our [website](#):

- **Treatment Plan Form**
- **Additional Treatment Plan Form**
- **Mental Health Billing Intake Form**
- **Penal Code Definitions**
- **Mental Health Provider Rates Chart**

## FAQ

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**Q:** What is the current application processing time?

**A:** 34 days (as of Dec. 22)

**Q:** If the District Attorney decides not to prosecute, will eligibility be denied?

**A:** Not necessarily. Staff will use the “preponderance of evidence” standard when substantiating a crime. This standard simply requires that the evidence must show it is more likely than not that the qualifying crime occurred, and it requires a review all available documentation for the following:

- Physical injury or threat of injury
- Qualifying crime based on statutes
- Involvement or other issues

**Q:** Does a California resident who is victimized in another state need to apply with and exhaust benefits from that state’s compensation program before applying with CalVCB?

**A:** No. A victim can file an application with CalVCB while utilizing benefits from another state’s compensation program. CalVCB cannot pay benefits until the funds are exhausted with the other compensation program; however, if there is a benefit the other compensation program does not cover, CalVCB can assist with that benefit once staff verifies it is directly rated to the crime and not reimbursed by any other source.

## FISCP Halfway Point

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California’s Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Program, administered by CalVCB, just crossed the halfway mark. Victims have until Dec. 31, 2023, to apply for compensation and share the \$4.5 million in reparation payments available.

As of Jan. 10, the program has received 323 applications. Of those, 51 have been approved, and 103 have been denied, of which 4 appeals are currently under review, 166 are being actively processed, and 3 have been closed as incomplete. Each approved applicant will receive \$15,000 immediately and share in whatever money is left at the end of the program. For more information, including an application, see our [FISCP webpage](#).

CalVCB has created a [FISCP social media toolkit](#), including suggested posts and images, for anyone to use. Please remember to tag us in your posts!

## TRC Grant Application Deadline Approaching

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The deadline to apply for **Trauma Recovery Center grant funding** is Jan. 17. The grant will begin July 1, 2023, and last until June 30, 2025.

The TRC grant awards are funded by annual appropriations from the Restitution Fund and the Safe Neighborhood and Schools Fund. For 2023, an additional \$2.2 million will come from the state General Fund as part of the Budget Act of 2022.

Currently, CalVCB funds 18 TRCs statewide.

### Contact Us

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