

JUNE 2023

CalVCB Victim Advocate Newsletter



Reminders

- State offices are closed on Tuesday, July 4 for Independence Day.
- Are you signed up for **Morning Coffee**? Receive a brief daily email with news articles of interest to CalVCB.
- **Mental health provider forum** Wednesday, June 28 at 2 p.m.
- **Advocate webinar:** Income and Support Loss/Required Documentation: Tuesday, June 27 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.
- If you are a Cares2 user and have not submitted your Confidentiality Agreement acknowledging the completion of Information Security and Privacy Training, it is past due and your account may be deactivated. Submit your form to infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov immediately to avoid a disruption in your access to Cares2.

Updated Website

Recently, CalVCB completed updated to improve the victim-focused language on victims.ca.gov. CalVCB worked with California's Office of Digital Innovation to modify the content and design.

Over the course of several weeks, we made the language easier to understand, streamlined several sections, including **How to get compensated**, **Who is eligible**, and **What is covered**, and rearranged the order information appears on the home page.

If you haven't had a chance to check out the changes, please do! If you notice something is missing, or can't easily find a section, email infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov.

National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards

CalVCB attended the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Board's conference in Seattle, Washington at the end of May. Representatives from nearly every state in the nation discussed important issues facing compensation programs, including funding, outreach and restitution recovery.

While California was the largest state in attendance, the issues facing each state are similar.

CalVCB Executive Officer Lynda Gledhill, who sits on the Association's Board said the conference offers states a chance to discuss issues they all face. "Every state is working hard to compensate victims of crime within our statutes. The opportunity to discuss challenges and different ways of approaching problems in a more informal setting is invaluable."

Other states shared their respective approaches to working with tribal communities, paying for strangulation exams and policies around private fundraising, such as GoFund Me accounts.

"It was helpful to hear each state describe how they approach the same topics California faces," said Vincent Walker, Deputy Executive Officer for CalVCB's Program Division, who also attended the conference. "I came away with ideas I look forward to working on here in California."

Advocate Monthly Training

CalVCB holds monthly advocate webinars, which are designed to help you better understand our overall program.

We offer some topic-specific training currently, which covers funeral and burial expenses, income and support loss, and relocation.

Outreach specialist Cindy Kaiser is planning to develop additional topic-specific webinars and training and is interested in knowing what would most benefit you and advocates in your office.

Fill out our [presentation request form](#) and email it to infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov.

Keeping Cares2 Up to Date

Have you logged into your Cares2 account recently?

Your account will automatically deactivate if you do not log in at least once every 90 days.

To have it reactivated, or to submit any staff changes, email infoadvocate@victims.ca.gov.

Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Program

The Forced or Involuntary Sterilization Compensation Program runs until Dec. 31, 2023.

To increase awareness, we encourage you to share our social media posts, and to utilize our [social media toolkit](#).

Did You Know?

The use of the words "claimant" and "applicant" mean different things or have distinct meanings. In general, the claimant is the person who would receive services or benefits, i.e., the victim, the

derivative victim, or someone who has paid or assumed liability for expenses.

The word applicant refers to the person submitting either an initial application or supplemental claim, which is the request for payment submitted after the application is received. (Cal. Code Reg., tit. 2, §§ 649(a)(1), 649(a)(23))

Often the applicant is also the claimant. However, situations involving a minor or incompetent adults may result in an authorized representative such as a legal guardian, conservator, immediate family member, parent or relative caregiver signing the application for the claimant. (Gov. Code, § 13952(d)(2)(B))

A third-party such as a funeral home, other provider, or victim advocate representative cannot sign as an applicant on behalf of a victim. An attorney cannot sign as an applicant on behalf of a victim unless appointed by the court as a legal guardian, guardian ad litem, or conservator.

Contact Us

[Visit our Website](#)

California Victim Compensation Board

800-777-9229

P.O. Box 3036 Sacramento, CA 95812