

Crime Victims' Guide to Restitution



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CRIME VICTIMS' GUIDE TO RESTITUTION

WHAT IS RESTITUTION?

Restitution is compensation paid to a victim by the offender for financial losses suffered as a result of the crime. Crime victims have the right to restitution. However, a court order that restitution is to be paid does not guarantee that the money will always be successfully collected. To make a restitution claim, please contact the Victim Response Team at the St. Francois County Prosecutor's Office.

HOW DO I REQUEST RESTITUTION?

- IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to provide the Prosecuting Attorney's Office with documentation of the financial losses or expenses incurred as a result of the crime. Documentation that may be needed includes **medical/dental bills, medication receipts, receipts for repair of damaged items, valuation estimates for stolen or damaged property, receipts for insurance payments, or any other information to substantiate your claim.** In order to collect restitution, it will be necessary for you to notify the Prosecuting Attorney's Office of any change of address during the criminal process. You may notify the St. Francois County Prosecutor's Victim Services Team of your change of address by emailing: pa@sfcgov.org.

WHAT CAN I REQUEST AS RESTITUTION?

- Medical expenses (doctors, physical therapy, ambulance, etc.)
- Property expenses (replace and/or repair damaged or stolen property)
- Insurance deductible or co-pays for either of above if insurance coverage paid.

WHEN CAN I EXPECT TO RECEIVE MY RESTITUTION PAYMENTS ?

Restitution payments are made to the St. Francois County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Restitution deposits are then made to the St. Francois County Treasurer's Office and restitution checks are issued to the victim the following business day. Often restitution is not made all at once and defendants are ordered by the court to make monthly payments as a condition of probation. Failure to pay restitution as ordered by the court could be a violation of the offender's conditions of probation or parole.

ARE THERE OTHER WAYS I CAN BE COMPENSATED FOR MY LOSSES?

- An insurance company may provide coverage for your personal injury or property loss due to crime. You may not be reimbursed additionally for any losses covered by your insurance company.
- If the crime occurred during the course of your employment, you may be eligible for workers' compensation benefits including medical care and lost wages.
- If you were the victim of a violent crime, you may qualify for reimbursement from the **Missouri Crime Victims' Compensation Fund**. The State of Missouri has a fund to reimburse residents who have suffered injuries due to certain crimes of violence. Approved claims can provide compensation for medical, drug, counseling, funeral, loss of earnings and/or support expenses. This fund will **NOT** pay for damaged or stolen property or pain and suffering.
- You can also consider whether to file a civil lawsuit against your offender for recovery of your losses. If you decide to do this, you should consider consulting with an attorney who will explain your options and advise you.