



CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION

Can I claim compensation for criminal injuries?

Claims can be made for serious injuries resulting from a violent crime through the Government funded scheme operated by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA).

The scheme offers you advice on the types of injuries for which compensation can be awarded and the level of compensation payable for each type of injury. You may only claim for serious injuries eg fractures, dislocations, internal injuries, head injuries, sexual abuse and is not limited to physical injury but can, in certain circumstances, include mental injury.

You can make a claim even if the offender has not been identified, located or convicted.

At Simpson Millar LLP, we can help you with your compensation claim. We will provide you with the legal advice and course of action that best suits your needs and individual circumstances along with keeping you updated of the progress of your claim every step of the way without you having to do any of the hard work.

Frequently asked questions:

- Do I qualify for compensation?
- How much compensation will I receive?
- Can I challenge a CICA decision?
- Compensation claims for childhood abuse
- Fatal Injuries Compensation
- How much will it cost?
- How can we help?



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Do I qualify for compensation?

To qualify for a compensation award under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) scheme, you must meet the following criteria:

- You must have suffered a **serious injury**
- The injury must have taken place in **England, or Wales**
- The injury must have been **caused** by a **'crime of violence'**
- You must **report** the **crime** to the **police** as soon as possible and continue to **co-operate** with the police in any **investigations** carried out by them in relation to the crime. **Failure** to do so, can **lead** to the CICA **refusing a claim** or **reducing the amount of compensation** awarded
- Your claim must be made within the **2 year time limit**. (The CICA do have the discretion to remove the deadline in some cases eg compensation claims relating to child abuse cases, due to the sensitive nature of the claim and the fact that the development of injury often surfaces some time after the actual act of abuse.)

In addition to the above, there are some further special rules which apply in certain circumstances.

How much compensation will I receive?

- Compensation awards can range from £1,000 to £250,000
- Along with any loss of earnings sustained after the initial period of 28 weeks following the incident
- Costs of past and future care, support and/or accommodation adjustments necessary as a result of the injury suffered can also be claimed

2

Can I challenge a CICA decision?

If you believe your **claim** is **unjustified** and you have been **refused** an **award** or received a **reduced amount**, you can apply for review of your **claim**.

Upon appeal the CICA will review your claim. If the decision remains the same, you could appeal the decision before an independent Appeals Tribunal.

Challenging CICA decisions is **complicated** and **strict time limits** and **legal procedures** apply throughout each stage of the process.

For these reasons, it is **important** that you **seek legal assistance** when challenging a CICA decision.

Compensation claims for childhood abuse

If you have been a victim of child abuse of a physical or sexual nature, then a crime has been committed against you. At Simpson Millar LLP, we can help you to claim compensation for the pain and suffering that your abuser caused you.

Our sound legal advice and support will ensure that the entire process runs smoothly and quickly from start to finish resulting in you receiving the compensation you rightfully deserve.

Fatal injuries compensation

Nothing can be as devastating as losing a loved one through a crime of violence.

If someone you care about eg parent, child, spouse or partner has died as a result of a violent crime within the past two years, we could help you

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to recover compensation for the loss you have suffered.

How much will it cost?

Before we undertake **any work** on your behalf, we will fully **advise** you on the likely **cost of your claim**. We will consider your claim thoroughly, carry out our initial investigations and then **advise you**, free of charge, upon the likely **outcome of your claim**.

Minor injury claims:

- We provide a fixed fee service in which we will assist and advise you through the initial stage of your claim, namely the application stage to the CICA
- We will ensure that the CICA application form is completed accurately and with the appropriate details to maximize the potential of your compensation award from the very start of the process
- A fixed fee of £75.00 plus VAT applies to this service

Serious injury claims or challenges to previous CICA decisions:

- For claims involving more serious injuries or challenges to previous CICA decisions or where, eg the CICA demand more information or evidence regarding your injuries
- We offer a contingency fee basis, eg we will only charge you our fee if your claim succeeds
- We calculate fees on an hourly basis for the time spent on your claim
- We will advise you of our rates and provide you with an initial estimated cost of your claim
- We will provide regular updates on the amount of work we carry out on your claim

- You will only pay our fee if your claim succeeds
- Our aim is to maximize the amount of compensation that you ultimately receive, and we therefore limit our fees to no more than 25% of your total compensation award
- If your claim does not succeed, you will not have to pay us a penny

How can we help?

Our **specialist criminal injuries** compensation **team helps victims** of violent crimes to maximize the **amount of compensation** they receive under the CICA scheme. Our experience means we can **negotiate large settlement** offers with the CICA so that your claim concludes **quickly** with a **fair** and just amount of **compensation being awarded**.

This guide contains information on current legal issues applicable at the time of printing. Note there may have been changes subsequently which have not been incorporated in to the material. This guide is intended for information purposes only and its content should not be applied to any particular set of facts or relied upon without legal or other professional advice. For further information on how we can help you please contact:

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