

Claim a dependency payment after a homicide

If you have been affected by a homicide, we are sorry for your loss and want to be able to help you recover. We may be able to give you a dependency payment, if you were financially dependent on a person who died as a result of an act of violence or was killed by a dangerous driver.

Financial dependency claims

You can claim dependency if you were (or would have been) entirely or substantially dependant on the deceased person's income at the time of their death. You may have been their partner, child (born or unborn) or another type of dependant.

Examples:

- Mika lives with her uncle and aunty. They paid for everything she needs. Mika is a financial dependant of her uncle or aunty.
- Jacob has a part time job and earns a minimal income. His income is not high enough to live independently so he lives with his brother. His brother pays most of the household expenses. Jacob is a financial dependant of his brother.

Approved amounts

If the death happened in Queensland and you were a financial dependent of the deceased person, we may also be able to pay a one-off dependency payment of **up to \$20,000**.

- This payment is to recognise the loss of wages they were earning or benefits they were receiving – and would have continued to get if they had not died.
- This amount can be claimed by each financial dependant.

We realise these payments will not cover all of your losses, but we hope they will provide some initial financial relief.

We may also be able to pay some of your recovery expenses, such as:

- medical, counselling, medical report and medical travel expenses
- other exceptional circumstance expenses.

Please read the relevant expenses factsheet for more details.

Relevant payments

You must tell us if you receive any other money because of the person's death (e.g. insurance payments or payments from the deceased's estate).

We may need to deduct this amount from your payment.

How to apply

To claim a dependency payment, you must:

- complete the Related victim application form
- provide identity document(s)

You also need to provide evidence showing:

1. you were entirely or substantially dependant on the deceased to support you financially
2. the amount of financial support you were likely to receive in the two years after they died.

This may include photocopies, scanned copies or clear photographs of the following:

- documents showing your relationship to the deceased (e.g. birth certificate)
- proof of joint bank accounts or shared household bills
- bank statements showing regular payments from the deceased person
- Centrelink or child support documents
- tax returns for yourself and the deceased person
- evidence of expenses the deceased paid for you (e.g. receipts for school fees, uniforms)
- bank statements or receipts that show the deceased person regularly paid expenses for you (e.g. school fees, sports club fees)
- other documents that show financial dependence.
- Send your application and other documents to:
 - VictimAssist@justice.qld.gov.au
 - Victim Assist Queensland, GPO Box 149, Brisbane, Qld 4001.

Payment process

If you are an adult, and your claim is approved, lump sum payments (distress and dependency), will be paid directly to you.

If you are an adult with impaired capacity for a prescribed financial matter and your claim is approved, and an administrator or enduring power of attorney has been appointed, the one-off lump sum payment will be paid to the administrator or enduring power of attorney.

If you are a child (under 18), and your claim is approved, lump sum payments (distress and dependency), will be paid directly to the Public Trustee of Queensland to be held in trust for you until you turn 18.

Timeframes

Due to the high number of claims already queued, it may be many months before we're able to assess your application and pay approved expenses.

If you have an urgent expense, and meet the conditions for claiming urgent expenses, we may prioritise the assessment of these expenses. If we decide the expenses don't meet these conditions, we'll let you know. Non urgent expenses will be queued for general assessment within normal timeframes.

Specialist support services

Queensland Homicide Victims Support Group provides statewide specialist support to people who have experienced a homicide in their family. They can also provide information about the what to expect during the investigation and subsequent trial and handling media enquiries. You can call them 24 hours on 1800 774 744.

Other factsheets you may need

You should also read the following instructions:

- Prove your identity when you apply
- Claiming urgent expenses

All instructions, forms and reports talked about in this factsheet are available at www.qld.gov.au/victimsapply.

If you do not have internet access, please call 1300 546 587 during business hours and request the information via post.
