

1 AN ACT relating to victims of crime.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 49.280 is amended to read as follows:

4 As used in KRS 49.270 to 49.490, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 5 (1) "Child" means any person less than eighteen (18) years of age;
- 6 (2) "Claimant" means any of the following claiming compensation under KRS 49.270  
7 to 49.490: a victim, a dependent of a deceased victim, a third person other than a  
8 collateral source, or an authorized person acting on behalf of any of them who is  
9 legally responsible for the expenses incurred by the victim as a result of the crime  
10 committed against the victim;
- 11 (3) "Criminally injurious conduct" means conduct that occurs or is attempted in this  
12 jurisdiction, poses a substantial threat of personal physical~~ly~~ ***or*** psychological  
13 injury~~ly~~ or death, and is punishable by fine, imprisonment, or death. Criminally  
14 injurious conduct shall include an act of terrorism, as defined in 18 U.S.C. sec.  
15 2331, committed outside of the United States against a resident of Kentucky. Acts  
16 which, but for the insanity or mental irresponsibility or lack of capacity of the  
17 perpetrator, would constitute criminal conduct shall be deemed to be criminally  
18 injurious conduct. The operation of a motor vehicle, motorcycle, train, boat,  
19 aircraft, or other vehicle in violation of law does not constitute a criminally  
20 injurious conduct unless the injury or death was intentionally inflicted, ~~for~~  
21 ~~it~~involved a violation of KRS 189A.010, driving under the influence, ***or involved***  
22 ***the operator of a vehicle in an accident who did not stop and disclose his or her***  
23 ***identity as required by KRS 189.580;***
- 24 (4) "Family," when used with reference to a person, shall mean:
- 25 (a) Any person related to such person within the third degree of consanguinity;
- 26 (b) Any person maintaining a sexual relationship with such person; or
- 27 (c) Any person residing in the same household with such person; and

- 1 (5) (a) "Victim" means a needy person who suffers personal physical or  
 2 psychological injury or death from a criminal act in Kentucky as a result of:  
 3 1. Criminally injurious conduct;  
 4 2. A good-faith effort to prevent criminally injurious conduct; or  
 5 3. A good-faith effort to apprehend a person reasonably suspected of  
 6 engaging in criminally injurious conduct.
- 7 (b) "Victim" shall also mean a resident who is a victim of a crime occurring  
 8 outside this state if:  
 9 1. The crime would be compensable had it occurred inside this state; and  
 10 2. The crime occurred in a state which does not have a crime victim  
 11 compensation program, for which the victim is eligible as eligibility is  
 12 set forth in KRS 49.310.
- 13 (c) "Victim" shall also mean a resident of this state who is injured or killed by an  
 14 act of terrorism, as defined in 18 U.S.C. sec. 2331, committed outside the  
 15 United States.

16 ➔Section 2. KRS 49.370 is amended to read as follows:

- 17 (1) No award shall be made unless the Crime Victims Compensation Board or board  
 18 member, as the case may be, finds that:  
 19 (a) Criminally injurious conduct occurred;  
 20 (b) Such criminally injurious conduct resulted in personal physical or  
 21 psychological injury to, or death of, the victim; and  
 22 (c) Police or court records show that such crime was promptly reported to the  
 23 proper authorities; and in no case may an award be made where the police or  
 24 court records show that such report was made more than forty-eight (48)  
 25 hours after the occurrence of such crime unless the board, for good cause  
 26 shown, finds the delay to have been justified.
- 27 (2) Except for claims related to sexual assault, human trafficking, and domestic

1 violence, the board upon finding that the claimant or victim has not fully cooperated  
2 with appropriate law enforcement agencies shall deny, reconsider, or reduce an  
3 award.

4 (3) Any award made pursuant to KRS 49.270 to 49.490 shall be in an amount not  
5 exceeding out-of-pocket expenses, including indebtedness reasonably incurred for  
6 medical or other services, including mental health counseling, necessary as a result  
7 of the injury upon which the claim is based, together with loss of earnings or  
8 support resulting from such injury. Mental health counseling shall be paid for a  
9 maximum of two (2) years, but only after proper documentation is submitted to the  
10 board stating what treatment is planned and for what period of time. The board shall  
11 have the power to discontinue payment of mental health counseling at any time  
12 within the two (2) year period. Replacement of eyeglasses and other corrective  
13 lenses shall be included in an award, provided they were stolen, destroyed, or  
14 damaged during the crime.

15 (4) Any award made for loss of earnings or financial support may be considered for a  
16 claimant who has loss of support or wages due to the crime for which the claim is  
17 filed. Unless reduced pursuant to other provisions of KRS 49.270 to 49.490, the  
18 award shall be equal to net earnings at the time of the criminally injurious conduct;  
19 however, no such award shall exceed ***three hundred dollars (\$300)***~~one hundred~~  
20 ~~fifty dollars (\$150)~~ for each week of lost earnings or financial support. The wage  
21 earner or source of support must have been employed or paying support at the time  
22 the crime occurred. Said employment or support shall be verified by the staff of the  
23 board after information is provided by the claimant or victim. Should the claimant  
24 or victim fail to supply the board with the information requested, the portion of the  
25 claim for lost wages or support shall be denied. If there are two (2) or more persons  
26 entitled to an award as a result of the injury or death of a person which is the direct  
27 result of criminally injurious conduct, the award shall be apportioned by the board

1 among the claimants.

2 (5) The board is authorized to set a reasonable limit for the payment of funeral and  
3 burial expenses which shall include funeral costs, a monument, and grave plot. In  
4 no event shall an award for funeral expenses exceed seven thousand five hundred  
5 dollars (\$7,500)~~five thousand dollars (\$5,000)~~.

6 (6) Any award made under KRS 49.270 to 49.490 shall not exceed thirty thousand  
7 dollars (\$30,000)~~twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000)~~ in total compensation to  
8 be received by or paid on behalf of a claimant from the fund.

9 (7) No award shall be made for any type of property loss or damage, except as  
10 otherwise permitted in KRS 49.270 to 49.490.

11 ➔Section 3. The moneys in the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund (KRS  
12 49.480) necessary for payment of awards made in accordance with Section 2. of this Act  
13 are hereby appropriated for fiscal year 2022-2023 and fiscal year 2023-2024.

14 ➔Section 4. Whereas, the provisions of this Act relate to programs funded in the  
15 2022-2024 Executive Branch biennial budget, an emergency is declared to exist, and this  
16 Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise  
17 becoming a law.