

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR  
NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

Control \_\_\_\_\_ Department or Agency Crime Victims' Compensation Commission  
Rule No. 262-x-4-.04

Rule Title: Compensation Awards - Amounts and Methods of Payment.

\_\_\_\_\_ New X Amend \_\_\_\_\_ Repeal \_\_\_\_\_ Adopt by Reference

Would the absence of the proposed rule significantly  
Harm or endanger the public health, welfare, or safety? Yes

Is there a reasonable relationship between the  
state's police power and the protection of the  
public health, safety, or welfare? Yes

Is there another, less restrictive method of  
regulation available that could adequately protect  
the public? No

Does the propounded rule have the effect of directly  
or indirectly increasing the costs of any goods or  
services involved and, if so, to what degree? No

Is the increase in cost, if any, more harmful to the  
public than the harm that might result from the  
absence of the proposed rule? N/A

Are all facets of the rulemaking process designed  
solely for the purpose of, and so they have, as  
their primary effect, the protection of the public? Yes

.....  
Does the proposed rule have an economic impact? Yes

If the proposed rule has an economic impact, the proposed rule is  
required to be accompanied by a fiscal note prepared in accordance with  
subsection (f) of Section 41-22-23, Code of Alabama 1975.

.....  
Certification of Authorized Official

I certify that the attached proposed rule has been proposed in full  
compliance with the requirements of Chapter 22, Title 41, Code of Alabama  
1975, and that it conforms to all applicable filing requirements of the  
Administrative Procedures Division of the Legislative Reference Service.

Signature of certifying officer Cassie T. Jones Cassie T. Jones, Ed.D.

Date 9/14/17

ALABAMA CRIME VICTIMS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

RULE NO. & TITLE: 262-x-4-.04 Compensation Awards – Amounts and Methods of Payment.

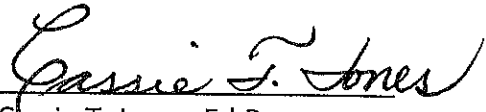
INTENDED ACTION: Amend

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Commission proposes to amend the rule to further provide for the payment of home security systems for victims of violent crime.

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS: Interested persons may present their views in writing to the Alabama Crime Victims' Compensation Commission, 5845 Carmichael RD; Post Office Box 231267, Montgomery, Alabama 36123-1267, or oral comments at 334.290.4420.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE: Written comments shall be received until the close of record at 5:00 p.m. on November 6, 2017. All comments should be addressed to the contact person listed below or oral comments at 334.290.4420.

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY: Kim Martin, General Counsel, Alabama Crime Victims' Compensation Commission, 5845 Carmichael RD; Post Office Box 231267, Montgomery, Alabama 36123-1267.

  
Cassie T. Jones, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

**ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR APA RULE  
(Section 41-22-23(f))**

Control No. \_\_\_\_\_ Department or Agency Alabama Crime Victims' Compensation Commission

Rule No: 262-X-4-.04

Rule Title: Compensation Awards – Amounts and Methods of Payment

\_\_\_\_\_ New  Amend \_\_\_\_\_ Repeal \_\_\_\_\_ Adopt by Reference

\_\_\_\_\_ This rule has no economic impact.

This rule has an economic impact, as explained below:

**1. NEED/EXPECTED BENEFIT OF RULE:**

This rule will further provide for the payment of home security systems for victims of violent crime.

**2. COSTS/BENEFITS OF RULE AND WHY RULE IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, AND FEASIBLE MEANS FOR ALLOCATING RESOURCES AND ACHIEVING THE STATED PURPOSE:**

It will allow more eligible victims to feel safe in their homes.

**3. EFFECT OF THIS RULE ON COMPETITION:**

No effect.

**4. EFFECT OF THIS RULE ON COST-OF-LIVING AND DOING BUSINESS IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA WHERE THE RULE IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED:**

No effect.

**5. EFFECT OF THIS RULE ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA WHERE THE RULE IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED:**

No effect on employment, it is only promulgated to assist victims of violent crime.

6. SOURCE OF REVENUE TO BE USED FOR IMPLEMENTING AND ENFORCING THIS RULE:

Court-ordered fines, fees and restitution. Federal grant money will also be used. No general fund money will be used in the implementation of this rule.

7. THE SHORT-TERM/LONG-TERM ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THIS RULE ON AFFECTED PERSONS, INCLUDING ANALYSIS OF PERSONS WHO WILL BEAR THE COSTS AND THOSE WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE RULE:

It will provide more compensation to eligible victims.

8. UNCERTAINTIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ESTIMATED BENEFITS AND BURDENS OF THE RULE, INCLUDING QUALITATIVE/QUANTITATIVE BENEFITS AND BURDEN COMPARISON:

No uncertainties are foreseen or anticipated.

9. THE EFFECT OF THIS RULE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH:

It improves the public health by providing more compensation to eligible victims.

10. DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH IF THE RULE IS NOT IMPLEMENTED:

Crime victims will potentially receive less financial compensation.

**\*\*Additional pages may be used if needed.**

**262-X-4-.04     Compensation Awards - Amounts and Methods of Payment.**

(1) Compensation payable to a victim or claimant sustaining economic loss due to injury or death may not exceed a total of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00). For incidents of criminally injurious conduct occurring on or after October 1, 2014, compensation payable to a victim or claimant sustaining economic loss due to injury or death may not exceed a total of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000).

(2) Compensation for lost wages may not exceed four hundred (\$400.00) dollars per week. For incidents of criminally injurious conduct occurring on or after October 1, 2014, compensation for lost wages may not exceed six hundred (\$600.00) dollars per week.

(3) The Commission may provide for the payment to a claimant in a lump sum or installments or the Commission may choose to make payments directly to the service provider. Compensation payable to service providers for medical treatment may be awarded at 100% of eligible expenses.

(4) Future Economic Loss.

(a) The maximum award for future economic loss is \$5,000 per claim. For incidents of criminally injurious conduct occurring on or after October 1, 2014, the maximum award for future economic loss is \$20,000 per claim. Future economic loss may only be awarded when the victim's loss of future earning capacity or income is verifiable through his/her employment or compensation history. Future economic loss may be awarded in the following circumstances:

(1) The victim was employed at the time of his/her victimization and the employment is verifiable;

(2) The victim was not employed at the time of his/her victimization but worked at least sixty-five weeks in the 104 weeks preceding victimization and the employment is verifiable. When there is proof the victim suffered an injury or illness during the 104-week period that prevented him/her from working, future economic loss may be considered when it is verifiable that the only reason the victim did not work sixty-five weeks was due to the injury/illness.

(b) If the deceased victim leaves a dependent spouse and no dependent children, the total amount of the future economic loss may be paid to the dependent spouse.

(c) If the deceased victim leaves a dependent spouse and a dependent child or dependent children and the dependent spouse is the parent of all the victim's dependent children, then the total amount of the future economic loss may be paid to the dependent spouse for the benefit of himself/herself and the dependent child or dependent children.

(d) If the deceased victim does not leave a dependent spouse, but leaves dependent children, funeral/burial expenses may be paid prior to the payment of future economic loss for a dependent child or dependent children. After the payment of funeral/burial expenses, twenty-five percent (25%) of the remaining compensation benefits may be used for the compensation of the claimant's eligible expenses. The remaining compensation benefits will be apportioned equally among the dependent children for whom a request for future economic loss is made within the one-year filing deadline. Dependent children who request future economic loss after the one-year filing deadline may not receive compensation benefits. If there are compensation funds remaining after the one-year filing deadline, they may be equally apportioned and distributed to the deceased victim's dependent

children who made a request for future economic loss prior to the expiration of the one-year filing deadline.

(e) If the deceased victim leaves a dependent spouse and a dependent child or dependent children for whom the parent or legal guardian is someone other than the dependent spouse, funeral/burial expenses may be paid prior to the payment of future economic loss for a dependent child or dependent children. After the payment of funeral/burial expenses, fifty percent (50%) of the remaining compensation benefits may be used for the compensation of the dependent spouse's eligible expenses. The remaining compensation benefits will be apportioned equally among the dependent children for whom a request for future economic loss is made within the one-year filing deadline. Dependent children who request future economic loss after the one-year filing deadline may not receive compensation benefits.

(f) Legal proof that the dependent spouse was married to the deceased victim at the time of the victim's death will be requested. Legal proof that a dependent child was the legal child of the deceased victim will be requested. For example: marriage certificate, affidavits attesting to common-law marriage, birth certificate, or court order.

(g) All awards for future economic loss shall be diminished or denied to the extent that the future economic loss is recouped from a collateral source.

(h) At the discretion of the Commission, future economic loss may be paid in a lump sum, but only upon a finding that the lump sum award will promote the best interest of the claimant.

(i) An award payable in installments for future economic loss may be made only for a period as to which the Commission can reasonably determine future economic loss. An award payable in installments for future economic loss may be modified by the Commission upon its finding that a material and substantial change of circumstances has occurred.

(5) No more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) may be paid for expenses related to funeral, cremation, or burial. For incidents of criminally injurious conduct occurring on or after October 1, 2014, no more than seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) may be paid for expenses related to funeral, cremation, or burial.

(6) Approved claims will be paid in the order of their approval by the Commission as funds become available.

(7) Payments may be made in lump sums or in installments.

(8) Lost wages shall be verified by obtaining written documentation from the employer or by submission of a W2 tax document. A tax transcript from the IRS is required if the person seeking reimbursement of his/her lost wages is self-employed or the employer indicated that taxes are not deducted from the person's wages. Proof must be provided that the person seeking reimbursement of his/her lost wages paid federal and state income taxes for the period of time applicable to the requested lost wages.

(9) The claimant may, with the Commission's approval, elect to be paid for lost wages, future economic losses, replacement services loss, etc., before the service providers are paid.

(10) Annual leave, sick leave, personal leave or holidays shall not be considered a collateral source and may be reimbursed by the Commission.

(11) Lost Wages.

(a) The victim's work loss caused by the crime may be considered for reimbursement.

(b) The claimant or immediate family member may apply for his/her lost wages if he/she took time off from work to care for the victim if the victim was a minor, or a medical professional provides written confirmation that the care was recommended.

(c) If the victim died as a result of the crime, the victim's dependent spouse and dependent children may apply for future economic loss.

(d) Anticipated work may be considered for compensation when accompanied by documentation certifying a definite start date.

(e) The victim's, claimant's, and immediate family members' lost wages may be awarded for work loss due to receiving medical treatment as a result of the crime; mental health treatment as a result of the crime; attendance of grand jury proceedings for three days if not subpoenaed; attendance of grand jury proceedings for as many days as required by subpoena, attendance of the offender's preliminary hearing, arraignment, bond hearing, a hearing on any pretrial motion, trial, or any post judgment proceeding; and the offender's parole hearing.

(f) Proper documentation is required for consideration of all lost wages requests, including, when applicable: confirmation of court attendance; a parole notification letter; employer's confirmation of work loss; a self-employment affidavit; or a written excuse from a licensed medical professional or licensed mental health provider.

(12) Lost Wages Payment Limitations.

(a) Lost wages are limited to \$400.00 per week for a maximum of 52 weeks. The maximum award for lost wages is \$15,000. For incidents of criminally injurious conduct occurring on or after October 1, 2014, lost wages are limited to \$600.00 per week for a maximum of 52 weeks. For incidents of criminally injurious conduct occurring on or after October 1, 2014, the maximum award for lost wages is \$20,000.

(b) When computing lost wages, twenty percent (20%) will be deducted from the gross amount to reflect income tax and other deductions that would have been subtracted from the earnings.

(c) Life insurance shall be considered a collateral source for all claims. If life insurance does not fully compensate the deceased victim's dependents for the eligible expenses they incurred as a result of the victimization, the remaining eligible expenses may be eligible for compensation.

(13) Collateral Source.

a. Life insurance shall be considered a collateral source for compensation.

b. When determining if a collateral source has fully compensated a victim or a deceased victim's dependent, a five-year period of a victim's lost wages or other income will be used for calculation of the collateral source offset.

(c). Charitable donations shall not be considered a collateral source for compensation. If an eligible expense has been paid with charitable donations, the Commission will not reimburse the expense. The Commission only provides compensation benefits for payment or reimbursement of actual expenses.

(14) Moving and Temporary Relocation Expenses

- (a) The Commission may award moving expenses in cases in which the crime occurred in the victim's home, the victim has a reasonable fear for his/her life if he/she does not move from the home, or moving the victim's personal belongings is necessary. Written estimates and/or receipts are required for payment of moving expenses.
- (b) The Commission may award temporary relocation expenses when the victim's home has been temporarily made uninhabitable as a direct result of the crime. Claimants/victims who qualify for temporary relocation expenses may receive per diem at a rate of \$150. If the size of the claimant's/victim's family necessitates the rental of two hotel rooms or larger accommodations, the Commission may consider awarding more than per diem for the temporary relocation expense. A copy of the hotel bill, credit card receipt, or other verifiable document is required for verification.
- (c) Moving and temporary relocation expenses may not exceed a combined total of \$2,000. When the Commission determines that exigent circumstances exist, a maximum of \$3,000 may be awarded.

(15) Travel Expenses.

(a) Airline tickets or mileage at the Internal Revenue Service's standard mileage rate and a \$150 per diem rate and lost wages may be provided for eligible travel expenses. Airfare will be reimbursed at coach rates only. Travel expenses for the victim, immediate family member(s), or person(s) of the victim's choosing, may be awarded to attend grand jury proceedings for three days if not subpoenaed, grand jury proceedings for as many days as required by subpoena, the offender's preliminary hearing, arraignment, bond hearing, a hearing on any pretrial motion, trial, or any post judgment proceeding. When the victim is deceased, travel may be awarded to immediate family members. Travel may be allowed for immediate family members to travel attend the offender's trial or any post judgment proceeding. When the prosecutor's office or any other entity pays for all or part of the victim's or immediate family member's travel expenses, that amount shall be deducted from the compensation award for travel expenses. Travel may be allowed for medical and psychological treatment that is needed as a result of the victimization. Travel required to procure needed services may be considered for the victim, claimant, and immediate family members. Travel expenses may be awarded for emergency circumstances, as determined by the Commission.

(b) Travel expenses and lost wages for the victim, immediate family member(s), or person(s) of the victim's choosing, may be awarded for attendance of the offender's parole hearing. When the victim is deceased, travel expenses and lost wages may be awarded to immediate family members or victim representatives. Eligible parole travel expenses shall be reimbursed at the



current Internal Revenue Service's standard mileage rate, coach rate for airfare, and per diem at a rate of \$150.

These requests will only be considered as a supplemental to an original claim. (There must be a timely, approved compensation claim for parole travel expenses to be considered. The Commission will not consider parole travel expenses filed as an original claim.) 262-X-4-.04 (15)(b) shall be retroactive to the date of the Commission's inception.

(c) Travel expenses for immediate family members to attend the victim's funeral may be considered for reimbursement. Eligible funeral travel expenses may be reimbursed at the current Internal Revenue Service's standard mileage rate, coach rate for airfare, and per diem at a rate of \$150.

(d) To qualify for reimbursement for mileage, the destination must be greater than ten miles from the home (or travel starting point) of the person requesting compensation.

(e) Rental Cars. When the person requesting compensation has rented an automobile for eligible travel expenses, the person may be reimbursed for mileage or a daily rental car fee of \$35. Under no circumstances shall the requesting person receive both. Mileage will be reimbursed at the current Internal Revenue Service's standard mileage rate.

(16) Property Reimbursement and Replacement. Eligible damaged property may be replaced or restored to its condition immediately prior to victimization. Stolen property shall not be eligible for reimbursement. Compensation may be awarded for eligible property taken as evidence by law enforcement. For damaged property to be eligible for reimbursement it must be listed in the law enforcement incident/offense report.

- 1) The maximum award for property reimbursement and replacement is \$3,000 per claim.
- 2) The claimant shall provide estimates or receipts for the damaged property for which reimbursement is requested.
- 3) The maximum reimbursement for damaged clothing is \$500. This shall be considered as part of the \$3,000 maximum award for damaged property. Damaged clothing may be reimbursed as follows:
  - a) Pants, jeans or skirt - \$60 maximum per item;
  - b) Shorts or capri pants - \$40 maximum per item;
  - c) Dresses - \$80 maximum per item;
  - d) Shirts and tops - \$50 maximum per item;
  - e) Footwear - \$100 maximum per pair;
  - f) Jacket, coat or blazer - \$100 maximum per item;
  - g) Underwear - \$10 maximum per item;
  - h) Socks and hosiery - \$8 maximum per pair;
  - i) Sleepwear - \$30 maximum;
  - j) Bra - \$50
  - k) Purse - \$25
  - l) Wallet - \$15
  - m) Belt - \$30
- 4) Additional property eligible for reimbursement:

- a) Security enhancement, –
    - 1) Windows and locks for real property owned by the claimant/victim; and windows and locks for rental property leased by the claimant/victim when the claimant/victim is financially responsible for repair(s) to the leased property;
    - 2) Portable wireless security systems for the claimant's/victim's rental home may be considered for reimbursement.
  - b) Prescription eyeglasses and contact lenses. The maximum award for damaged prescription eyeglasses is \$350. A receipt/estimate must be provided for the eyeglasses. The maximum award for damaged prescription contact lenses is \$10.
  - c) Medically necessitated hairpieces used by the victim because he/she suffers from a condition such as alopecia, or he/she sustained hair loss due to an injury to the scalp or he/she received or is receiving medical treatment that resulted/results in hair loss. Documentation from a licensed health care provider substantiating the victim's hair loss is required;
  - d) Furniture, appliances and bedding damaged during the victimization. Damaged furniture, appliances and bedding may be reimbursed as follows:
    - 1) Sofa/couch - \$ 650 maximum;
    - 2) Loveseat/chair and a half - \$350 maximum;
    - 3) Upholstered chair/recliner - \$300 maximum;
    - 4) Coffee table - \$150 maximum;
    - 5) End table/side table - \$100 maximum;
    - 6) Bed - \$500 maximum;
    - 7) Dresser/armoire/chest of drawers - \$300 maximum;
    - 8) Nightstand - \$100 maximum;
    - 9) Mattress set - \$800 maximum;
    - 10) Sheet Set - \$40 maximum;
    - 11) Pillow - \$15 maximum;
    - 12) Comforter/bedspread - \$65 maximum;
    - 13) Blanket - \$30 maximum;
    - 14) Dinette/dining set - \$300 maximum;
    - 15) Lamp - \$40 maximum;
    - 16) Refrigerator - \$500 maximum;
    - 17) Microwave - \$100;
    - 18) Cellular telephone - \$500 maximum
    - 19) Eligible property in this category that is not specifically addressed shall be reimbursed at a reasonable rate as determined by the Commission.
  - e) Purchase and installation of the following property for real property owned by the claimant/victim may also be considered for payment/reimbursement:
    - 1) Alarm system - \$600 maximum
    - 2) Security doors - \$800 maximum
    - 3) Burglar bars/security screens - \$2,000 maximum
- 5) The following property shall not be eligible for reimbursement:
- a) Guard dogs;
  - b) Weapons of any type;
  - c) Automobile repair or replacement costs;
  - d) Cash and/or checks;

an amount not to exceed \$2,500. The service provider must be certified, licensed, and in compliance with all applicable federal and state regulations. Crime scene clean-up expenses may only be awarded for the cleaning and removal of biohazards.

(25) Birth Certificates. Reimbursement may be provided for one certified copy of the claimant's and/or victim's birth certificate(s) obtained after the date of the criminally injurious conduct made the basis of the claim. The birth certificate(s) must have been obtained for the purpose of applying for crime victims' compensation benefits.

(26) Government-Issued Photo Identification. Reimbursement may be provided for one state-issued driver's license or one state-issued non-driver's ID obtained after the date of the criminally injurious conduct made the basis of the claim.

(27) Reimbursement may be provided for certified victims of human trafficking and all qualified victims of violent crime for the removal/cover-up of tattoos that were physically forced on them by the alleged offender in the incident made the basis of the compensation claim. The Commission shall decide reasonable reimbursement on a case-by-case basis. The provider must be licensed by the appropriate governmental body to perform the service rendered to qualify for payment/reimbursement.

(28) Lost Wages for Victims of Sexual Assault. A victim of sexual assault may be granted compensation for a maximum of two weeks of lost wages without a doctor's excuse. A doctor's excuse must be provided for lost wages in excess of two weeks to be considered for reimbursement. Employer verification is required for all lost wages requests.

(29) Payment to Non-Claimants. A claimant may assign compensation benefits to a person for allowable expense to the extent that the compensation benefits are for the cost of products, services, or accommodations necessitated by the criminally injurious conduct made the basis of the claim. The claimant must submit a completed Permission for Another Individual to Receive Payments on a Limited Basis form for payment to be issued to the person who incurred the expense.

(30) Impound Fees, Towing, and Storage Fees. The reasonable costs of motor vehicle impound fees, towing, and/or storage fees associated with the collection and security of crime scene evidence may be awarded to a claimant/victim. A vehicle must be street legal for the Commission to consider awarding compensation benefits for this category. The maximum award for this category shall not exceed \$1,000.

**Author:** Dr. Cassie T. Jones

**Statutory Authority:** ALA. CODE § 15-23-5(14) (1995)

**History:** Filed September 14, 2017