

## **Policy for Housing and Relocation**

The intention of the Victims Compensation Program is to assist victims with relocation costs in cases where a victim's safety or security are at risk or when a victim becomes displaced as a direct result of a crime. If a victim is already working with the Department of Children and Families Economic Services Division we would ask that they contact their caseworker to find out if they qualify for any rental assistance before the Victims Compensation Program will consider payment. The Victims Compensation Program will generally pay relocation costs no more than once in a 12-month period.

### Rent

Two months rent provided the victim is able to sustain payment of the rent after the two months. The Compensation staff will have discretion to determine what is considered as "reasonable rent" based on the area in which the victim is relocating to.

### Security Deposits

Security deposits not to exceed the cost of one month's rent. A security deposit cannot be used as last month's rent. Last month's rent will not be considered. Landlord must sign an agreement to reimburse the security deposit to the Victims Compensation Program at the time that the premises are vacated. If a victim has prepaid the security deposit prior to application with the Victims Compensation Program, we will reimburse the victim for the security deposit upon the victim's submission of a landlord's receipt and a signed copy of the lease. The victim must also sign an agreement to reimburse the security deposit to the Victims Compensation Program at the time that the premises are vacated.

### Start-up Costs

Start-up costs could include the following: deposits for gas and electric utility connection; basic land line phone connection; initial post office box fee. Start-up costs not to exceed \$500.00.

### Relocation Costs

Relocation costs could include the following: rental trucks, moving companies, transportation costs, storage fees not to exceed three months. Total relocation costs not to exceed \$1,500.

### Emergency Housing

Emergency housing will be paid at a maximum of \$100.00 per night, for not more than 7 nights.

### Payment of Law Enforcement Fees

The Victims Compensation Program will consider payment for a sheriff, deputy sheriff, or municipal law enforcement official to be present at a suspect's/victim's residence to ensure a victim's safety while removing their belongings. The Program will not pay for fees when a suspect is removing their belongings from a victim's residence. This fee will be paid in addition to the \$1,500 relocation cap.