

# CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

## Witness Application

Use this application if the crime occurred on or after January 1, 2024

The Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP) provides benefits to **Witnesses** of an injured or deceased victim of violent crime in accordance with the *Crime Victim Assistance Act* and its regulations.

The program may also provide benefits to **Victims of violent crime**, as well as **Immediate Family Members** of an injured or deceased victim of crime.

This application package consists of:

- an instruction guide
- the application form required
- summary of benefits

The instructions provided in this package follow the basic steps you will need to know to complete your application.

### Before You Apply

#### WHO MAY USE THIS APPLICATION?

This application package is designed for a **Witness** of an injured or deceased victim of violent crime. Under the *Crime Victim Assistance Act*, a Witness is a person who witnesses in close proximity a prescribed offence, or the immediate aftermath of a prescribed offence, that causes a life-threatening injury to, or the death of, the victim.

If this definition does not apply to you, please see the application packages for **Immediate Family Members** or **Victims**.

#### THE CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL NOT COVER

- injuries or loss sustained from motor vehicle accidents
- injuries or loss sustained at work, and which are covered by WorkSafeBC
- claims for pain and suffering
- lost or stolen personal property
- injuries sustained from an offence occurring outside of B.C. or prior to July 1, 1972

#### WHAT TYPES OF BENEFITS DOES THE CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROVIDE?

Benefits that may be available to Witnesses include:

- counselling
- prescription drug expenses
- transportation and related expenses
- crime scene cleaning

The Crime Victim Assistance Program will only provide benefits that are not covered by other programs (e.g., EI, ICBC, extended health coverage, personal insurance).



# INSTRUCTION GUIDE

## FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION

The application package is available in PDF format at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/crimevictimassistance>. To download the appropriate viewer, visit <http://get.adobe.com/reader>.

Print versions of the application form are available from the Crime Victim Assistance Program or a local victim service program.

A local victim service program can help you complete this application. To locate a program near you, call VictimLink BC toll-free at **1-800-563-0808**.

## BE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE

Complete all sections. If your application is incomplete, it may be returned to you and this will delay the processing of your application.

## COMPLETING THE FORM

You must answer all the questions on this application form unless indicated otherwise.

1. Download and fill out the application form on a computer. You also have the option of saving your form and completing it later.
2. If you are completing the application form by hand, please use blue or black pen, and print clearly.
3. If you have completed this form on your computer, print all pages of your application form.
4. You must sign and date both the Authorization and Declaration in Sections 7 & 8. Applications without the required signatures will be returned to you.
5. Mail the original application and any attachments to:  
Crime Victim Assistance Program  
PO Box 5550, Stn Terminal  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1H1
6. If your address or telephone number changes after submitting this application, please inform the Crime Victim Assistance Program by calling **1-866-660-3888**.

For additional questions, please contact the Crime Victim Assistance Program at **604-660-3888** or toll-free in B.C. at **1-866-660-3888**.

For more information, see the Government of British Columbia website at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/crimevictimassistance> or query "cvap bc" using your internet search engine.

# WITNESS APPLICATION FORM

## SECTION 1 - WITNESS INFORMATION (APPLICANT)

Applicant's Name			<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> X
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	
Other Names Used (e.g., nickname, maiden name, alias)				
Social Insurance Number	Birthdate		Occupation	
	Year	Month	Day	
Relationship to Victim				
Mailing Address (Apt No, Street Number, Street Address, PO Box)				
City		Province		Postal Code
Primary Phone Number	Alternate Phone Number		E-mail	
Alternate Mailing Address (e.g., the address of a family member) in case mail sent to the address above is returned to us.				
City		Province		Postal Code

## SECTION 2 - VICTIM INFORMATION (IF KNOWN)

Victim's Name			<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> X
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	
Other Names Used (e.g., nickname, maiden name, alias)			Date of Name Change	
(Last)	(First)		Year	Month
			Day	
Social Insurance Number	Birthdate		Occupation	
	Year	Month	Day	
Marital Status				
<input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Common Law <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Separated <input type="checkbox"/> Single				
Most Recent Mailing Address (Apt No, Street Number, Street Address, PO Box)				
City		Province		Postal Code
Primary Phone Number	Alternate Phone Number		E-mail	

## SECTION 3 - CRIME INFORMATION

Please indicate the type of crime that occurred (e.g., assault, forcible entry).  Type of Crime:	If the crime occurred over a period of time, please provide the approximate dates (e.g., Sept 2021 – Dec 2022).  Date of Crime:
Applications must be submitted within two years of the crime. An explanation is required to determine if the time limit can be extended. The two year time limit does not apply if the applicant is a minor (under 19 years old).  <b>Is this application being filed within two years of the date of the crime?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>If no:</i> Please provide additional information regarding the timing of your application (i.e., why you did not apply sooner)	
Location(s) of Crime (city/town):	
Which police force is handling the investigation?	
Police File Number (if known):	Name of Investigating Officer (if known):
Name of the person who allegedly committed the crime (if known):  (Last) <span style="margin-left: 150px;">(First)</span> <span style="margin-left: 150px;">(Middle)</span>	
Relationship of offender to victim (if any):	Has the alleged offender been charged?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Court File Number (if known):	Court Location:
Have you sued the alleged offender(s)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes:</i> File # <span style="margin-left: 100px;">Court Location</span>	Do you intend to sue the alleged offender?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided
Is the victim deceased as a result of the crime?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, date of death
Briefly describe how the incident occurred, in your own words. Please complete this section even if you have provided a statement to the police.	

If you have additional information, please attach a separate sheet.

## SECTION 4 - MEDICAL INFORMATION

This section provides information regarding any medical treatment you received as a result of the crime.

Do you have medical services coverage (e.g., a BC Services Card or BC Care Card)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<i>If yes:</i> Provide your personal health number.
Do you have other health coverage? (e.g., Blue Cross) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<i>If yes:</i> Provide your extended health plan number and provider.
Do you have a family doctor or clinic who has been treating you as a result of the incident? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<i>If yes:</i> Doctor or Clinic Name		Phone Number
Address (Apt No, Street Number, Street Address, PO Box)		
Please indicate any counsellor/therapist who has been treating you as a result of the incident.		
Name		Phone Number
Address (Apt No, Street Number, Street Address, PO Box)		

## SECTION 5 - EXPENSES AND BENEFITS

This section provides information regarding any expenses or benefits you wish to claim. Please keep receipts for all expenses you are claiming. The program will require you to submit original receipts. For further information please see the Summary of Benefits available to Witnesses.

<p>Please check all that apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Counselling Services</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation to obtain counselling</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Prescription drug expenses</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Crime scene cleaning</li></ul>
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## SECTION 6 - APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF WITNESS

This section may be completed by a legal guardian or legal representative (e.g., Power of Attorney) on behalf of the Witness.

If the Witness does not have a legal representative and is physically or mentally incapable of making the application, this section may be completed by a third party on behalf of an incapable person.

This section is NOT FOR USE by a Victim Service Worker or other support person providing support to a capable person.

Person completing the application		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)
Mailing Address (Apt No, Street Number, Street Address, PO Box)		
City	Province	Postal Code 
Phone Number	E-mail	
Are you a legal guardian? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes: What is your relationship to the applicant? (e.g., mother)	
Are you a legal representative? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes: What is your authority? (e.g., Power of Attorney)	
Note: If you are not the natural or adoptive parent of the applicant, please attach a copy of any court order or other document that is proof of guardianship/trusteeship. If you are a legal representative, please provide a copy of your authority.		
If you are not a legal guardian or a legal representative, what is your relationship to the Witness identified in this application?		

Completion of **Section 7** and **Section 8** are mandatory if the application is being completed by the Witness, a legal guardian or a legal representative (e.g., Power of Attorney). The application will be returned if these sections are not signed and dated.

A third party completing the application on behalf of an incapable person is only required to complete **Section 7**.

## SECTION 7 - DECLARATION

**The application will be returned if this section is not signed and dated.**

Information supplied on this form is necessary to determine your eligibility for benefits, and is collected under the authority of Section 6 of the *Crime Victim Assistance Act*. Any information collected will be used only for the purposes of adjudicating your claim for benefits.

By signing this section you declare that the information you have provided on this application is true and correct. It is an offence to provide false or misleading information on this application and may lead to prosecution. If it is discovered at a later time that false or misleading information has been provided on this application form, you may be required to repay to CVAP any benefits received.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (please print) submit this application in support of a claim for benefits available to Witnesses under the *Crime Victim Assistance Act*, and declare the information provided in this application for benefits is true and correct.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Month/Day/Year)

**To sign electronically, use the Fill & Sign tool  in Adobe Reader or Acrobat. Only a drawn signature or an uploaded image of original signature are accepted. Typed signatures cannot be accepted. Note: If you use Fill & Sign, you will be unable to make further changes to the form once it is saved.**

## SECTION 8 - AUTHORIZATION



This section authorizes the Crime Victim Assistance Program to contact the persons and organizations listed so that we may process your claim for benefits. Your application will be returned if this section is not signed and dated. You may be required to submit other authorizations that are needed to process your claim. If you have any questions about the collection and use of the information gathered by the Crime Victim Assistance Program, please contact the program at (604) 660-3888 or toll free in B.C. at 1-866-660-3888.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, (please print) hereby authorize:

1. The doctor, dentist, optometrist, chiropractor, or other health care professional who treated my injuries (physical and/or psychological) to give the Crime Victim Assistance Program, on request, medical or other reports regarding my injuries, treatment or other information relevant to this application;
2. The police or other law enforcement authorities to give the Crime Victim Assistance Program, on request, a copy of police reports, statements, incident reports or other information relevant to this application;
3. The Workers' Compensation Board of BC or other authority from which the victim received or will receive or will be eligible to receive payments from provincial, federal or other jurisdictions funds to give the Crime Victim Assistance Program, on request, information relevant to this application;
4. My employer(s) or similar authority to give the Crime Victim Assistance Program, on request, information as to my employment, earnings, benefits or other information relevant to this application;
5. Any accident, disability, sickness, life insurance/assurance company or private pension scheme or extended health benefits scheme from which payments or services were received or will be received to give the Crime Victim Assistance Program, on request, information relevant to this application;
6. Employment and Social Development Canada or Indigenous Services Canada or any other authority from which payments were received or will be received to give the Crime Victim Assistance Program, on request, information relevant to this application;
7. The Canada Employment Insurance Commission or the Canada Pension Plan or similar employment insurance and pension plans from other jurisdictions, to give the Crime Victim Assistance Program, on request, information as to benefits received or to be received relevant to this application; and,
8. Canada Revenue Agency or other similar agency in any other jurisdiction, to give the Crime Victim Assistance Program, upon request, information as to my employment income.

I understand that the Crime Victim Assistance Program may notify the above authorities that I have submitted an application for benefits pursuant to the *Crime Victim Assistance Act*.


Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Month/Day/Year)

**To sign electronically, use the Fill & Sign tool   in Adobe Reader or Acrobat. Only a drawn signature or an uploaded image of original signature are accepted. Typed signatures cannot be accepted. Note: If you use Fill & Sign, you will be unable to make further changes to the form once it is saved.**

## SECTION 9 - OPTIONAL AUTHORIZATION

CVAP staff requires your written permission to discuss the information in your file with other persons. Please complete this section if you want to allow program staff to discuss your file with another person, such as a family member or victim service worker.

<p>This is the authorization (written permission) to discuss your file with another person.</p> <p>I, _____, <i>(please print)</i> hereby authorize the Crime Victim Assistance Program staff to discuss my claim with _____  <i>Name of authorized person you allow program staff to talk to (print clearly)</i></p>	
<p>Authorized Person's Phone Number</p>	<p>Authorized person's relationship to you (applicant)</p>
<p>Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____  <i>(month/day/year)</i></p>	
<p>Agency Name and Address</p>	

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## SUMMARY OF BENEFITS

The Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP) helps Victims, Immediate Family Members of victims, and Witnesses affected by violent crime. Benefits provided by CVAP offset financial loss and assist in recovery from injuries. This summary focuses on benefits available to Witnesses.

Benefits:	For:	Examples:
Counselling services or expenses	Witnesses who need counselling to recover from the psychological injury caused by witnessing the crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• counselling sessions</li> </ul>
Prescription drug expenses	Witnesses who need prescription drugs to recover from the psychological injury caused by witnessing the crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• medications prescribed by a doctor</li> </ul>
Transportation and related expenses, and transportation related childcare	Witnesses who have to travel some distance to obtain counselling services provided as crime victim assistance benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transportation expenses such as bus fare, air fare, or mileage expenses</li> <li>• meals and accommodation</li> <li>• childcare while attending appointments</li> </ul>
Crime scene cleaning	Witnesses who need specialized cleaning of their home or vehicle because the crime was committed there	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specialized cleaning and disinfecting of contaminated areas</li> <li>• replacement of contaminated flooring, wall covering, or other built-in features</li> </ul>