

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION SCHEME

Children who have suffered personal injury directly attributable to a crime of violence, including sexual abuse, are entitled to make a claim to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) for compensation for their trauma. The matter must have been reported to the Police, although the Authority, in the case of children who may be too young or too frightened to appreciate the right course of action, takes a sympathetic view. It is not necessary for the offender to have been convicted.

Applications should be made on the child's behalf by a parent or guardian or, if the child is subject to a Care Order, by Children and Young People Service.

Applications must be made within three years of the date of the injury, although the CICA may waive this requirement with regard to late claims made on behalf of children.

The Police normally advise victims of violence of their rights to make a claim for compensation. Social Workers must carefully consider, with the Authority's legal representatives, whether to make an application on behalf of a Child Looked After by the Local Authority. If parents or other victims require assistance this may be provided by Children and Young People Service but the family should be advised to seek independent legal advice.

Before accepting an award of compensation on behalf of a child subject to a Care Order the Social Worker must refer all documentation to the Legal Division to obtain Independent Counsel's advice.

The Authority will arrange for an award to be held in trust until the child reaches the age of 18.

Application forms are held by the Child Care Teams.

Further information and application forms can also be obtained from:
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority,
Blytheswood House,
200 West Regent Street,
Glasgow, G2 4SW.

Telephone Number: 0141 331 2726.