

Crime Victim Reparations

Act 250 of 1982—R.S. 46:1801-1802

Effective July 1982, the State Legislature established a program to provide for the payment of compensation for victims of certain crimes. The law known as the Crime Victims Reparations Act, created the Crime Victims Reparations Fund. The board administers the provisions of the Act and awards payments from the Fund.

Eligibility to apply for awards

You may apply if you believe you are a crime victim, you are the victim's legal representative (his/her attorney or the person legally responsible for the expenses), or you are the victim's dependent. The crime must have involved the use of force or threat of use of force and have resulted in personal injury, death, or catastrophic property loss (arson): certain vehicular crimes qualify.

Reimbursable expenses

For personal injury: medical, hospital, nursing, physical therapy, psychiatric care, or counseling is covered. Actual loss of past earnings because of a disability resulting from the personal injury are covered. Care of the children is also available to enable a victim or the spouse, but not both, to engage in gainful employment.

As a consequence of death: Care of a child or children enabling the surviving spouse or legal custodian of deceased victim's children to engage in lawful employment, where that expense is not otherwise compensated for personal injury loss. Counseling or therapy for any surviving family member of the victim or any person in close relationship to such a victim is covered. Funeral, burial, or cremation expenses are covered.

Victim's expenses associated with the collection and securing of crime scene evidence are covered.

To apply, please contact Police Social Services or

Crime Victims Reparations Board
1885 Wooddale Blvd.
Baton Rouge, La 70806
(225)925-443
(888) 6- VICTIM (in State ONLY)

Additional Campus Resources

Counseling Center - (985) 448-4080

224 Elkins Hall Mon.—Fri. 8a-4:30p

Counseling@nicholls.edu

All services are confidential and free of charge to enrolled students, faculty, and staff.

Services:

- Individual counseling
- Group Counseling
- Couples Counseling
- Workshops/Presentations
- Consultation
- Screenings
- Written/Audio/Video Resources

Health Services (985) 493-2600

Healthservices@nicholls.edu

Office of Residential Living (985) 448-4479

Housing@nicholls.edu

Student Affairs Case Manager (985) 493-2529

Dr. Michele Caruso (985) 448-4081

Assoc. VP for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Michele.Caruso@nicholls.edu

Chief Alex Barnes (985) 448-4742

Director of University Police and Parking Services

Alexander.Barnes@nicholls.edu

Nicholls State University

Colonel Comfort Brochure

Resources and Information for Crime Victims and Witnesses



Compliments of
University Police

Alex Barnes, Chief of Police

Officer's Name: _____

Case # _____

www.nicholls.edu/police
985-448-4746

LPSO Police Social Services

University Police is committed to partnering with Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office's Police Social Services (PSS) to better ensure that our students have the resources and guidance that they need. PSS has been developed to serve the citizens of Lafourche Parish who have been either a victim of a crime or witness to a crime. This is done by giving information to the victims/witnesses about Sheriff's office Services including a 24-hour emergency response number (985)532-4200, as well as services offered by other organizations and agencies, e.g. counseling, medical attention, Crime Victims Reparations and victim advocacy. Advising the victims/witness who may be concerned about what to do if threatened or intimidated by the suspect or the suspects companions or family; and Informing the victim/witness about the case number, if known, by the agency, and subsequent steps in processing the case; and providing a telephone number that the victim/witness may call to report additional information about the case or to receive information about the status of the case.

Call Police Social Services if...

Your personal property is being held by the Sheriff's Office and you need assistance in its return.

You do not know where to report a crime that you have witnessed.

You have any questions about what to expect in court or any other matter in regards to your case, no matter how unimportant you may think it is.

You have any questions about victim's compensation for personal injuries.

You need someone to speak to your employer on your behalf to allow your appearance as a witness.

You move or change your telephone number.

You have questions about your safety and protection.

Police Social Services (985) 449-4477

LPSO Communications (985) 532-2808

Victims of Abuse

No one has the right to hit, slap, punch, or hurt you in any way.

This is a Crime!

There are several ways you can get protection and help.

Criminal Action

The responding officer may arrest your abuser at the scene. Domestic Violence is not tolerated at Nicholls State University. We take these crimes seriously. If an immediate arrest is not made, arrest warrants may be obtained.

If your abuser is arrested, keep in mind that he or she may bond out soon, so you might consider finding a safe place to stay. We may be able to assist or we can refer you to another agency that will offer this service to you. In addition, you can request that the jail notify you when your abuser is going to be released by using the Louisiana Victim Notice and Registration Form. This form is also forwarded to the District Attorney's Office so they may keep you updated on the status of your case. Notification can also be requested through the automated Notification System VINELINK. is a free service and can be accessed by calling toll free 1-866-528-6748 or www.vinelink.com.

Protective Orders

A protective order is a legal document that is granted by a judge. The order may state that your abuser cannot come within 100 yards of you, and may not have any communication with you. The judge may also order that your abuser can not go to your work place. A temporary protective order can last up to 30 days. The judge will set a court date at which time you and your abuser will go before the judge. At this time, the judge will decide whether or not to grant you a permanent protective order, which can last up to 18 months. In order for Law Enforcement to know that a violation has occurred, you must make reports. If you feel that you are not safe from further harm, the responding officer or PSS can assist you in getting to a safe place.

To obtain the forms for the protective order, you can go to the Clerk of Court's Office, Police Social Services, or the Domestic Violence Shelter of your choice.

Criminal Justice Process

What is the Procedure?

If you have had the misfortune of being a victim or a witness of a crime, your first contact was most likely with a uniformed police officer who made a report of the crime that you reported or witnessed. The officer will have been assigned an item number for your report. The officer or our investigator will investigate the your case further. Should an arrest(s) be made, the Investigator will complete a case file and refer it to the District Attorney. The case is then reviewed by the court or a grand jury. Depending on the severity of your case, you may be called to testify. Courts are located in the City of Thibodaux. If a personal escort is needed, please contact University us or PSS.

Important points to remember as a witness in a courtroom

Dress well, be courteous, and be attentive. Think before you speak. Speak clearly.

If you do not understand a question, ask that it be explained. Answer all questions directly.

Be fair, be helpful (not funny), and above all, never lose your temper. Be prepared to wait.

Persons with Disabilities

If there are certain accommodations that you require in order to testify, you must let the district attorney handling the case know ahead of time.

District Attorney's Office (985) 447-2003

Clerk of Court's (985) 447-5550

Shelters

METRO	(504) 837-5400
The Haven	(800) 915-0045
Chez Hope	(800) 331-5303

Louisiana Domestic violence Hotline
1-888-411-1333

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)