

Information on the application for crime victims' compensation

in accordance with the Social Compensation Law – Book XIV of the Social Code (SGB XIV)

Have you been the victim of an act of violence and would like to apply for compensation under the Social Compensation Law – Book XIV of the Social Code (SGB XIV) because of the health and financial consequences you have suffered? You can do so with the social compensation authority responsible for you. This is the social compensation authority of the Bundesland (federal state) in which you reside.

Find out [here](#) which is your **point of contact**.

Please fill in the application form for crime victims' compensation, which is also available on our website, as completely as possible, sign it and send it to the social compensation authority responsible for your case.

Please note: Damages for pain and suffering (Schmerzensgeld) can only be claimed from the perpetrator(s).

Do you need help filing your application?

It is possible that you will find it disturbing to provide some of the information asked for in the form. Should you need help with filling in the form for this or other reasons, please do not hesitate to contact the social compensation authority responsible for your case.

Support is of course also available from all victims' support organisations. The WEISSE RING e.V. for example offers an advisory service for crime victims and operates a Europe-wide free helpline, which you can call on 116 006. It will put you in touch with regional field offices or other organisations near you. Victims of sexual abuse can anonymously phone the free helpline of Germany's Independent Commissioner for Questions related to Child Sexual Abuse

at 0800-2255530. The helpline hours are: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Women who have become victims of violent acts can phone the number 116 016 free of charge around the clock to seek advice from female contact persons staffing the nationwide helpline "Violence against Women" (Gewalt gegen Frauen). The service is available in several languages and in accessible format. In addition, counselling via e-mail or live chat is also available.

If you need help in connection with coming to terms with the psychological injuries caused by the crime you experienced, you can contact a trauma counselling. You can find out more about this at ODABS.

Additional information

In order to clarify the facts of the case and give the state the opportunity to prosecute the perpetrator, SGB XIV stipulates that applicants must do what is possible and reasonable for them. This means that they also have to press charges. However, this only applies if it is possible and reasonable for them to do so. In cases where this is particularly stressful for those affected - such as sexual abuse within the family or domestic violence - it will generally not be reasonable to press charges. If applicable, please explain the reasons why you have not or do not wish to press charges.

Finally, we would like to point out that your claims for compensation against the perpetrator are transferred to the state when you file an application under SGB XIV, insofar as it concerns benefits that you have received from the social compensation authority. As far as benefits are concerned that are not provided under SGB XIV (e.g. compensation for pain and suffering or compensation for damage to property), you can continue to claim these from the perpetrator. If, on the other hand, the pension authority has paid benefits, your claims in this regard against the perpetrator(s) are transferred to the state. The authorities are then generally obliged to reclaim the benefits provided from the perpetrator. As a result, the perpetrator becomes aware of your application. The authorities will refrain from a reclaim if this would be disadvantageous for you, for example if you would have to reckon with further acts of violence by the perpetrator.