

**If the defendant was sentenced to state prison time:** A small percentage of money received by or earned by the inmates is applied to his/her fines and restitution. The facility in which the inmate is incarcerated sends restitution payments to the victim.

**If the defendant is a participant in the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP):** Similar to the collection while on probation, the defendant's parole officer is responsible for monitoring payment plans and collections while he/she is in ISP. Defendant payments are sent to the victim from the Intensive Supervision Program. For more information call (609) 984-0076.

**For information about restitution while the defendant is on parole, while serving a prison sentence, or after release from prison** contact the New Jersey Department of Corrections Revenue Unit at (609) 292-4036 x5168 or 5164 or Office of Victim Services at (609) 292-4036 x5299.

You can also call the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy for further assistance at (908) 575-3359.

## USEFUL ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

**Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy  
Somerset County Prosecutor's Office**  
40 North Bridge Street  
P.O. Box 3000 • Somerville, NJ 08876-1262  
908-575-3359

**Probation Department  
Somerset County Courthouse**  
P.O. Box 3000 • Somerville, NJ 08876-1262  
908-231-7111

**Victims of Crime  
Compensation Office**  
50 Park Place  
Newark, NJ 07102  
973-648-2107  
Toll Free: 877-658-2221  
[www.nj.gov/oag/njvictims](http://www.nj.gov/oag/njvictims)

**Somerset County Prosecutor's Office**  
40 North Bridge Street  
P.O. Box 3000 • Somerville, NJ 08876-1262  
908-575-3300

[www.scpo.net](http://www.scpo.net)

**TIPS HOTLINE** 1-888-577-TIPS (5477)

## A Crime Victim's Guide to Restitution



**Somerset County  
Prosecutor's Office**

40 North Bridge Street  
P.O. Box 3000  
Somerville, NJ 08876-1262  
908-575-3300  
[www.scpo.net](http://www.scpo.net)

**A Crime Victim's Guide to Restitution**

**Q: What is restitution?**

Restitution is the money a judge orders the offender to pay to the victim(s) to compensate for monetary losses due to the crime. Usually, restitution is awarded for medical bills and/or property theft or damage.

Restitution is part of the offender's sentence and can be ordered in both adult and juvenile cases following a conviction, or delinquent adjudication.

The amount of restitution ordered by the judge depends on the victim's proof of specific losses and the offender's ability to pay. The defendant typically has the term of his/her sentence to pay restitution. For example, if he/she were sentenced to 3 years probation, he/she would have the 3 years to pay the required restitution to the victim(s).

**Q: How do I request restitution?**

Restitution is requested by using the Victim Impact Information Form that is mailed to victims from the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy. Victims can also send correspondence regarding restitution requests without using the standard form.

Requests for restitution should be supported by documentation detailing incurred expenses. This can mean sending copies (not originals) of hospital bills, receipts, credit card statements, auto repair estimates, etc. The judge has the final decision as to what the awarded amount of restitution will be.

**Q: What can I do if any part or all of the restitution I requested was not awarded?**

If any or all restitution was not a part of the defendant's sentence, victims have other options such as the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO), or the Civil Court system.

The VCCO provides compensation to eligible victims. Compensation is awarded regardless of charges being filed or even a conviction. However, funds are only available to innocent victims of reported crimes. VCCO does not compensate for property loss or damage due to a crime.

If you are interested in obtaining a civil attorney to collect money from the defendant in Civil Court you may contact the Somerset County Bar Association for an attorney referral at (908) 685-2323.

If your loss amount is less than \$3,000.00, you may also be entitled to a hearing in Small Claims Court. For more information, contact the Special Civil Division in the Somerset County Courthouse at (908) 231-7055.

**Q: The defendant was sentenced to pay restitution. What happens next?**

The State of New Jersey will send you a check once a month usually with any amount the defendant has paid during the previous month. The defendant will never send the payment directly to you. Collection of restitution is based upon the length of defendant's sentence.

**If the defendant was sentenced to probation** he/she will be required to make restitution payments to the State of New Jersey (see above). Because a payment plan must be set up between the defendant and the probation department, a delay before receiving the first payment should be expected.

**For information about restitution while on probation** contact the Somerset County Probation Department at (908) 231-7111.