

SEXUAL VIOLENCE GRANT

A lump sum of \$500 is available to victims/survivors of sexual violence to assist with the cost of dealing with the **immediate aftermath** of the crime. The grant is not means tested. Itemising of the costs incurred is no longer required if the victimisation happened on or after 1 July 2020.

Sexual violence victimisation is defined in sections 127-144 and 12H-216J of the Crimes Act 1961.

Criteria

- They have reported their victimisation to police and can provide a police report number (to uphold the intent of promoting victims' engagement with the criminal justice system).
- Their victimisation happened on or after 1 July 2020 and is reported to police **within 12 months** of the victimisation happening (to uphold the intent of helping with immediate and short term costs).
- Victimisations after **1 July 2020** that are **not** reported to police within 12 months are not eligible for this grant. Exemptions can be approved by the Ministry of Justice on a case by case basis. A request for an exemption is to be submitted by the GM – Service Delivery.

Prior to 1 July 2020

Victimisation that occurred within the period of 1 January 2010 to 30 June 2020 may apply for a grant and will be considered under the previous method of administration. As noted in the criteria below.

Sexual violence victimisation is defined in sections 127-144 and 12H-216J of the Crimes Act 1961.

Criteria

- Show they have reported the crime to the police by providing the police incident number and/or a copy of the relevant police incident form.
- The grant is not means tested.
- Show they have incurred costs because of the victimisation. The tests for what costs have incurred can be based on reasonable estimates as well as more detailed receipts if they have been kept.
- For victimisation that occurred in 2010 a maximum of \$250 is available.
- For victimisation that occurred on or after 1 January 2011 the maximum is \$500

Applications can be made on behalf of the victim/survivor by a medical specialist (such as a GP or DSAC doctor) or Ministry of Social Development approved sexual violence support agencies.

Applicants may claim assistance towards costs of:

- replacing items collected for forensic evidence (clothing, bedding etc.)
- replacing items that were stolen, lost or damaged during the attack
- replacing locks or repairing broken windows or doors
- overnight accommodation if the crime occurs in the victim's home
- car rental if the victim's/survivor's car needs to be held by the police
- income lost for time off work giving statements to/being interviewed by the police or for medical appointments related to the attack
- costs of travelling to and from police stations for the investigation, and to and from a forensic medical exam and medical appointments.