

Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority

A guide to CICA Claims

Expert advice

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, or CICA, is a government organisation which provides compensation for victims of violent crime in England, Wales and Scotland.

If you, a friend or a family member have suffered physical or psychological injuries as a result of a violent crime, it may be possible to apply to the CICA for compensation.

Slater and Gordon has a team of experts with many years' experience in dealing with CICA claims. If you think you may be eligible to apply for a CICA claim, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our experts will take details of your case, provide you with the best possible advice and assist with making a CICA claim.

How do you know if you're eligible for a CICA claim?

Not everyone is entitled to make a claim under the CICA Scheme. The CICA have strict requirements which include:

- you must have received the injury as a result of a crime of violence
- the incident must have been reported to the police as soon as practicable
- you must fully cooperate with the police and the CICA
- your injuries must be serious enough to meet the minimum requirements of the CICA Scheme

You can receive compensation for either a physical or psychological injury.

People who have lost a spouse, partner, child or parent to a fatal criminal injury can also claim compensation.

In most cases you must initiate your claim within two years of the incident, although exceptions may be made.

How much compensation are you likely to receive if the CICA claim is accepted?

It's difficult to provide an estimate of the likely amount of compensation you may receive without first reviewing the case.

The CICA make awards ranging from £1,000.00 to £500,000.00 depending on the severity of your injuries, so every case is different. Not every injury is serious enough to qualify for an award.

The CICA can withhold or reduce a compensation award if they feel your conduct may have led to the attack; for example if you willingly took part in a fight. They'll also take into account unspent criminal convictions.



Do you need legal representation to make an application for a CICA claim?

You don't need to have legal representation to make an application for compensation and for a straightforward claim it's often unnecessary. We'll advise you on how best to proceed and whether you should use a lawyer.

If you have suffered a serious injury and will have to cope with financial losses in the longer term, you should usually appoint a specialist criminal injury lawyer to ensure you get the maximum level of compensation.

What are the legal costs involved in a CICA claim?

If a claim is brought under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, it can be funded under a Contingency Fee Agreement. This means that if the case is unsuccessful we do not charge anything.

However, if the claim is successful, we'll deduct up to 25% of any CICA award. This will be clearly explained to you prior to us commencing work on your case.