

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**TREASURY DEPARTMENT**

**Title of Rule:** Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Crime Victim Compensation Program (120-RICR-00-00-2)

**Rule Identifier:** 120-RICR-00-00-2

**Rulemaking Action:** Proposed Amendment

**Important Dates:**

Date of Public Notice: October 10, 2023

Hearing Date: October 20, 2023

End of Public Comment: November 10, 2023

**Rulemaking Authority:**

R.I. Gen. Laws § 12-25-18(c)

**Summary of Rulemaking Action:**

This amendment seeks to clarify the rules and processes of the Crime Victim Compensation Program in accordance with statutory changes that have occurred, specifically the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and R.I. Gen. Laws § 12-25-17(6)(i)(E) and (ii)(C). The regulation changes do not impact any industry and there is no negative societal cost of compliance. The amendments define and clarify the amounts of compensation for pecuniary loss that may be received by an applicant. Specifically, the amendment expands eligible compensation to victims for reasonable and necessary travel expenses and overnight accommodations related to medical treatment, counseling services and necessary participation in criminal justice proceedings and caps the compensation award at \$1,000.00. For the victim's dependents, the amendment allows compensation for funeral, memorial, or burial expenses, loss of support, and reasonable and necessary travel expenses and overnight accommodations directly related to participation in funeral, memorial, and/or burial services, counseling services or necessary participation in criminal justice proceedings and caps the compensation award at \$3,000.00. The amendment also extends the definition of pecuniary loss to include any other expenses actually and necessarily incurred as a direct and proximate result of the personal injury or death, and caps the amount of compensation available for the victim and dependents. The amendment adds an award of compensation to a minor witness of domestic violence capped at \$1,500.00, and increases temporary housing expenses to \$150.00 per night. For an award for a victim's loss of earnings, the amendment sets net earnings in cases where the program cannot determine a victim's net weekly wages to be calculated based on 62% of the victim's gross earnings, which is the weekly compensation rate as provided by the R.I. Department of Labor and Training. The amendment also includes technical revisions which have been made to accurately reflect the most current version of the R.I. Gen. Laws.

**Additional Information and Public Comments:**

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until November 10, 2023 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Gayle C Mambro-Martin  
Treasury Department  
50 Service Avenue  
2nd Floor

Warwick, RI 02886  
gayle.mambro-martin@ersri.org

**Public Hearing:**

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

**Public Hearing Information:**

Date: October 20, 2023

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Location: 50 Service Avenue  
2nd Floor  
Warwick, RI, 02886

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-462-7699 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

**Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:**

This amendment seeks to clarify the rules and processes of the Crime Victim Compensation Program in accordance with statutory changes that have occurred, specifically the Justice Reinvestment Initiative and R.I. Gen. Laws §12-25-17(6)(i)(E) and (ii)(C). The regulation change does not impact any industry and there is no negative societal cost of compliance. This regulation defines and clarifies the amount of compensation for pecuniary loss that may be received by an applicant and adds and increases awards for minor victims of domestic violence and temporary housing expenses; and for an award for a victim's loss of earnings, the amendment sets net earnings in cases where the program cannot determine a victim's net weekly wages to be calculated based on 62% of the victim's gross earnings, which is the weekly compensation rate as provided by the R.I. Department of Labor and Training. For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation see agency contact person above.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.