

I've been injured as a result of a crime, can I make a claim for my injuries?

It is possible to claim compensation for an injury sustained if you are an innocent victim of crime. You could make a claim against the assailant/perpetrator of the crime if this is possible. Unfortunately, this is rarely the case and even if the claim is successful and an award of damages is made it is unlikely that the assailant/perpetrator would have the means to pay. The alternative is to make a claim through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) is an executive agency of the UK Government sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. They administer a compensation scheme for innocent victims who have been injured as a result of a violent crime in England, Scotland and Wales. If you have been directly injured in such a way you may be eligible for an award of damages under the scheme. You may also be eligible if you sustained an injury while trying to prevent a crime, apprehend an offender or by assisting a Police Officer in these activities. You can make a claim to the CICA yourself. If you do this there is no charge for the application. It is advisable however, to seek legal advice in relation to submitting claims. This will ensure that the application form is completed correctly and advice is provided in relation to eligibility. If found to be eligible advice will also be given regarding the award of damages which are awarded on a tariff based scheme. It should be noted that the CICA is a government-funded scheme with limited resources and claims can take a long time to complete.

In order to be eligible for an award:

- The incident leading to the injuries must have been occurred in England, Wales or Scotland;
- The crime must have been reported to the Police as soon as possible after the incident and must have been reported before you make the application to the CICA;
- You must provide all relevant information and co-operate with the Police at all times in relation to the crime and obtain a crime reference number;
- You must be a British Citizen or EU or EEA national (or their close relative)

Except in certain circumstances, an application must be made within 2 years of the date of the incident. There are other stipulations with regards eligibility and a number of reasons why your claim may be rejected. These include having unspent convictions when making the application or sustaining an injury that doesn't fall within the tariff scheme, amongst others. If you require advice in relation to making a claim to the CICA please contact Ralli Ltd on 0161 832 6131.