

For general information about restitution, call one of the probation services division phone numbers listed below or write to:

Comprehensive Enforcement Program,  
Probation Division,  
PO Box 987,  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
609-777-3278

<b>Atlantic</b>	609-594-3500
<b>Bergen</b>	201-527-4000
<b>Burlington</b>	609-518-2600
<b>Camden</b>	856-661-2500
<b>Cape May</b>	609-465-1095
<b>Cumberland</b>	856-453-4646
<b>Essex</b>	973-776-9300
<b>Gloucester</b>	856-853-3600
<b>Hudson</b>	201-795-6800
<b>Hunterdon</b>	908-237-5900
<b>Mercer</b>	609-571-4200
<b>Middlesex</b>	732-448-6100
<b>Monmouth</b>	732-869-5600
<b>Morris</b>	973-656-3500
<b>Ocean</b>	732-831-7999
<b>Passaic</b>	732-247-8631
<b>Salem</b>	856-878-5050 x15790
<b>Somerset</b>	908-231-7111
<b>Sussex</b>	973-579-0600
<b>Union</b>	908-659-3900
<b>Warren</b>	908-475-6920

### County Offices of Victim Witness Advocacy

<b>Atlantic</b>	609-909-7860
<b>Bergen</b>	201-646-2057
<b>Burlington</b>	609-265-5048
<b>Camden</b>	856-225-8431
<b>Cape May</b>	609-465-1163
<b>Cumberland</b>	856-451-3177 ext. 157
<b>Essex</b>	973-621-4707 or 4689
<b>Gloucester</b>	856-384-5549
<b>Hudson</b>	201-795-6508
<b>Hunterdon</b>	908-788-1403
<b>Mercer</b>	609-989-6428
<b>Middlesex</b>	732-745-3394
<b>Monmouth</b>	732-431-6459
<b>Morris</b>	973-285-6200
<b>Ocean</b>	732-929-2195
<b>Passaic</b>	973-881-4887
<b>Salem</b>	856-935-7510 ext. 8630
<b>Somerset</b>	908-575-3359
<b>Sussex</b>	973-383-1570 ext. 4521
<b>Union</b>	908-527-4596
<b>Warren</b>	908-475-6271

### New Jersey Judiciary

Stuart Rabner,  
Chief Justice

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.  
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Jennifer M. Perez  
Director, Trial Court Services

Elizabeth Domingo  
Assistant Director, Probation Services

# Restitution: A Payback for Victims



Probation Services Division

Administrative Office of the  
Courts

## **What is Restitution?**

A victim or the family of a victim of a crime committed in New Jersey can be repaid for losses and expenses that resulted from the crime. This repayment is called restitution. All convicted persons (offenders), might have to pay restitution to the victim or the victim's family.

As part of a sentence, a judge might order that the offender repay the crime victim or the victim's family for expenses related to the crime. These expenses include lost wages, medical bills, funeral costs, the value of stolen or damaged property, loss of business and other related debts.

When an offender is sentenced to probation and restitution is part of the sentence, the judge decides how much money is to be paid, to whom, and over what time period. The judge will consider if the offender has other debts, such as child support or restitution for other crimes, and if the offender is employed or unemployed.

## **Collecting Restitution**

As part of the sentence, the judge will establish an installment payment plan. The offender should send payments to the probation division that monitors the case. The finance division will then send the money to the victim or victim's family. If there are multiple victims or families to be paid, the judge might decide in what order the victims or families should receive restitution if they are to be paid at the same time.

Few offenders can pay the restitution ordered in a lump sum. In most cases, a victim or a victim's family can expect that the restitution will be paid over a period of time in amounts based on the payment schedule ordered by the judge.

Depending on the offender's circumstances and other obligations, the victim or the victim's family might have to wait before receiving all the money due to them.

## **Probation's Role**

By law, each probation division is responsible for collecting restitution from offenders who are placed on Pre-Trial Intervention or who are sentenced to probation or to county jail.

If defendants become delinquent in paying their court ordered restitution, the Comprehensive Enforcement Program (CEP) can summon them to court. The CEP is used by the Judiciary to enforce compliance to court orders, including collecting fines and restitution.

The probation division attempts to stay in contact with victims or their families who are owed restitution. Victims need to keep probation informed of their current address and provide other information as requested.

The probation division also regularly reminds offenders of the amount owed and the court-ordered payment schedule. When the offender has the ability to pay and refuses a court order to do so, the offender will be brought back to court for a violation-of-probation hearing. At that time, the offender could be sentenced to alternative forms of punishment, up to and including jail. The Judiciary has placed an increased emphasis on the rights of victims, including repayment for losses suffered because of crime.

## **Victim of Crimes Compensation Office (VCCO)**

Victims or their families also can receive compensation from the New Jersey Violent Crimes Compensation Office (VCCO). The

VCCO can repay victims or their families for out of pocket medical expenses, lost wages, and/or funeral costs only after other sources such as insurance, health benefits, welfare, or Social Security have paid their share of the expenses.

VCCO awards are limited to the actual expenses incurred and do not cover property loss or pain and suffering. For information about filing claims, contact:

The New Jersey Victims of Crime  
Compensation Violent Crimes Compensation  
Office  
50 Park Place  
Newark, NJ 07102  
1-877-658-2221 - [njvictims.org](http://njvictims.org)

## **Victim - Witness Advocacy**

Each county prosecutor's office has an Office of Victim Witness Advocacy. Staff in these offices help victims prepare restitution requests for the court and applications for the VCCO, make social service agency referrals, and provide case information.

Help with restitution or compensation requests can be obtained from the county Office of Victim Witness Advocacy at the phone numbers listed on the back of his brochure; by calling 609-292-6766 or writing to:

The New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice  
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex  
25 Market St.  
P.O. Box 094  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0094