

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: REVIEW OF DETERMINATION**

JD-VS-29 Rev. 10-21  
C.G.S. §§ 54-205, 54-206, 54-211a

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

JUDICIAL BRANCH  
[www.jud.ct.gov/crimevictim](http://www.jud.ct.gov/crimevictim)



This document provides answers to the most common questions asked about the Review of Determination (Review) process. This information is not legal advice. If you have questions about this information, please contact the Victim Compensation Program at 1-888-286-7347 or e-mail [OVSCompensation@jud.ct.gov](mailto:OVSCompensation@jud.ct.gov).

### **What is a Review?**

A Review is an administrative hearing held by a Victim Compensation Commissioner to review the determination made by the Office of Victim Services (OVS) on an application for victim compensation. The Victim Compensation Commissioner may reverse or keep the OVS determination and may order, increase, or decrease the amount of victim compensation.

### **What happens after I send in my Review request?**

OVS will contact you to confirm that your request was received. Your Review will be scheduled within 2 to 3 months from the date of that contact. Most Reviews are held in-person at the OVS office in Wethersfield. If it is difficult for you to come to the office, you may request your Review be held by phone or you may waive your right to appear at the Review and request the Victim Compensation Commissioner make a decision based on the information in the OVS file and any documentation that you provide.

**Important:** If you request a Review and you were ordered to receive victim compensation, the victim compensation will not be paid until the Victim Compensation Commissioner makes a Review decision.

### **Do I need an attorney at the Review?**

You do not need an attorney at the Review, but you may hire an attorney if you want.

### **How do I prepare for the Review?**

You should be prepared to explain to the Victim Compensation Commissioner why you think the OVS determination should be changed. You may also want to bring supporting documents that are not in your claim file, witness(es), or other supporting information for the Review. At the Review, you and any witnesses will be placed under oath and will be required to provide your/their name, address, telephone number, and photo identification, such as a driver's license. The Review will also be tape-recorded.

If you are concerned that the Review may be emotionally difficult for you, you may bring a relative, friend, or someone else with you.

### **When will I receive my Review decision?**

You will receive the Victim Compensation Commissioner's Review decision by certified mail within 120 days from the date of the Review.

### **Can I appeal the Victim Compensation Commissioner's Review decision?**

You have the right to appeal the Victim Compensation Commissioner's Review decision to the Superior Court for the Judicial District of Hartford. The appeal must be filed not later than 30 days after the date on which the Review decision is sent by first class mail or by e-mail. This appeal is called a trial de novo, which means a new trial or retrial in which the whole case with evidence and witnesses is presented as if no previous trial had been held.

#### **ADA NOTICE**

The Judicial Branch of the State of Connecticut complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need a reasonable accommodation in accordance with the ADA, call OVS at 1-800-822-8428.