

## Policy: Victims of Crime Assistance

### Policy Purpose

To outline our obligation to apply for financial assistance or compensation under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act* for children who are clients of Territory Families, if they have been a victim of a violent act. A violent act is a criminal act (or series of criminal acts) prescribed by regulation (see *Victims of Crime Assistance Regulations*).

### Policy Statement

If a child has been a victim of a violent act, which occurred in the Northern Territory, they may be eligible for assistance under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act*, if they meet defined eligibility criteria. Applications are made through the Crime Victims Services Unit (CVSU) in the Department of Attorney General and Justice.

If the child is a client of Territory Families Care and Protection services we have an obligation to ensure that an application for financial assistance is made through the CVSU on the child's behalf. For a child not in the care of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) this obligation is met by providing advice to the parent or carer about how to make an application through CVSU.

For a child who is in the care of the CEO:

- If they were the victim of a violent act before coming into care the application for financial assistance should be made by the Case Manager on the child's behalf; or
- If they are the victim of a violent act while in care, the Internal Review Unit will arrange for an independent legal representative to act in the interests of the child, including completing the application for financial assistance through CVSU.

It is CVSU policy that all payments made in the name of a child are paid into an account managed by the Public Trustee. The funds are held in trust until the child reaches the age of 18. Access to the funds is by application to the Public Trustee. All applications for financial assistance under this policy must be recorded in CCIS and the child's hard copy file.

### Legislative Basis

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#)

[Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2006](#)

[Victims of Crime Assistance Regulations 2006](#)

### Standards

[Standards of Professional Practice](#)

Authorised by:

<b>Executive Director, Service Development and Policy on:</b>	16/03/2015	<b>Active from:</b>	16/03/2015
<b>Version 1.0</b>	Outlines Territory Families' obligation to apply for financial assistance or compensation for children who are clients under the Victims of Crime Assistance Act.		

Current Version V 1.01

<b>Active from:</b>	6/02/2017	<b>Authorised by:</b>	Director, Policy
<b>Update:</b>	Rebranded, internal links reset, Caseworker to Case Manager		
<b>Review due:</b>	March 19	<b>Maintenance:</b>	Policy tf.policy@nt.gov.au