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The National Association for
People Abused in Childhood



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CICA Claims



CICA claims

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) is a government funded body which compensates victims of crimes of violence, including sexual abuse under the strict rules of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.

Whilst it is possible to bring a claim yourself as a litigant in person, it is advisable to instruct a specialist Abuse Solicitor to support you throughout the process of claiming compensation.

The above applies to people who have been injured in England, Wales and Scotland.

When to make a CICA claim

CICA applications must be submitted to the CICA either by phone or their online portal.

If you were under 18 at the time of the abuse, the application must be submitted

- By your 20th birthday if the incident was reported to the police before your 18th birthday.
- Within two years of the first report to the police, if the incident was reported to the police on or after your 18th birthday.

If you were 18 or over at the time of the abuse your claim must be submitted within 2 years of the abuse taking place.

In exceptional circumstances the CICA have the discretion to extend the 2-year time limit. It may therefore still be possible for you to bring a successful CICA claim, even if your application is submitted out of time.

Assessing the claim

The CICA will investigate your claim by contacting the police force you reported the crime to, as well as anyone who has treated you for any injuries.

The CICA will then decide if you can be awarded any compensation and if so, how much.

The CICA has a list of injuries, with an amount of compensation allocated to those injuries.

Your compensation amount will be decided from this list. You could also be given a special expense award for losses, or an award for lost earnings because of your injuries.





Reviewing and appealing decisions by the CICA

If you're unhappy with the CICA's assessment of your claim, then you can apply for a review of the decision. The CICA will review this and either stick with their decision or come back with a different one. This could be a lower offer than the initial one.

If your award remains too low after the review, you can make an appeal to an independent tribunal. The tribunal may ask for further evidence before a hearing date is set at a tribunal.

The hearing will take place before a panel of three people. They will hear how the CICA have come to their decision and how you have come to yours.

The panel will also hear evidence from you and any witnesses before they decide whether you're eligible for an award or how much you should get.

It's important to know that your abuser won't be at the hearing.

Do I need a solicitor to bring a CICA claim?

Whilst it is possible to bring a claim to the CICA yourself, using a Solicitor can make a significant difference to the outcome of your claim.

Your Solicitor will use their experience to help you gather evidence and let you know if your claim is worth more than what the CICA is offering. Additionally, if your claim is rejected by the CICA, a specialist Abuse Solicitor will apply their expertise to help you take your case to review or appeal.

If you decide to instruct a Solicitor, they will charge fees for this work. In many cases solicitors will carry out CICA work on a “no win no fee” basis where they will take a percentage of any award as payment of their fees. If you approach a solicitor you should ask them how the claim will be funded before you decide to instruct them.

Your solicitor will advise you on eligibility for compensation, as the CICA will take into account whether you have unspent convictions, or if you did not comply with a police investigation. They can also advise on whether the CICA could exercise its discretion and allow a claim to be brought out of time.

If you decide to pursue the claim yourself without instructing a solicitor, it is important that you read the CICA’s guide before you submit an application.



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