



Information to crime victims subjected to gross violation of woman's integrity

2006

Have you been the victim of gross violation against woman's integrity?

Contact the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority. You may be entitled to economic compensation, so called criminal injuries compensation.

Gross violation of a woman's integrity is a new crime which refers to a number of criminal acts, for example assault or sexual exploitation, committed by a man against a woman to whom he is or has been married or with whom he is or has been cohabiting. If the acts were part of a repeated violation of the woman's integrity and thus seriously damage her self-confidence, the crime is called gross violation of a woman's peace. Gross violation of a woman's integrity is a more serious offence than "ordinary" assault while gross assault or rape is even more serious.

Another form of violation of peace is to breach a restraining order. This is a crime that often entitles the victim to criminal injuries compensation.

If the man who has subjected you to crime is unable to pay damages and if you have no insurance policy covering the injuries, you may have the right to financial compensation from the State, so called criminal injuries compensation.

This right can in principle also apply when the offender is unknown. Concerning violence or threats in close relations, the suspicion is directed towards a certain person. For this reason, there must be a sentence establishing a crime, before the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority can make a decision on payment of criminal injuries compensation.

Note! As from November 15, 2006 there is a special form of criminal injuries compensation for children who have witnessed violence within the family.

Injuries to your person

Physical as well as psychological injuries caused by the crime might be compensated. These injuries might include:

- costs for hospital care, counselling, therapy and other expenses related to the injury,
- loss of income,
- pain and suffering, for example experience of pain or discomfort experienced during the period of illness,
- disability or other permanent physical damage, for example scars, loss of teeth, impaired vision or hearing,
- inconveniences resulting from the injury, for example significant difficulties at work.

If you have been subjected to a personal injury, you may receive compensation for damaged clothes, glasses, denture or similar things that you wore at the time of the crime.

Violation of the personal integrity

In order to receive compensation for violation of the personal integrity (in Swedish "kränkning"), the crime must have implied a serious violation of your personal integrity, your privacy and human dignity. This is the case when gross violation of a woman's integrity has occurred and often when someone has been assaulted or when someone has breached a restraining order. The amount of the compensation is related to the seriousness of the violation. The lowest amount which may be paid for violation of the personal integrity is 5 000 SEK (approx. 500€) but much higher amounts can be paid, in particular if you have been subjected to frequent and serious assaults for a longer period of time.

Application

In order to receive criminal injuries compensation, you must submit a written application. The Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority provide a form for this purpose. The application must be received no later than two years after the crime or after the legal proceedings have been completed. The authority may accept late applications in special circumstances.

Ways of receiving support and help

Being the victim of crime often gives rise to many feelings and may also create other problems. The Social Services Department in your municipality is responsible for seeing to that you and your closest relatives receive support and help if you have been the victim of a crime. This may include both economic, practical and psychological support.

A number of non-governmental organisations provide help and support to victims of crime. This includes counselling and help in getting in touch with authorities and insurance companies. Some of these organisations are listed below. They can also help you to get in touch with their local branches (or they may be listed in your local telephone directory).

Non-governmental organisations

Brottsofferjourernas Riksförbund, BOJ
The National Association for Victim Support
E-mail: boj.riks@boj.se Website: www.boj.se
Tel: 0200-21 20 19

Riksorganisationen för Kvinnojouurer och Tjejjourer i Sverige, ROKS
The National Organisation for Women's Shelters and Young Women's Shelters in Sweden
E-mail: info@roks.se Website: www.roks.se
Tel: 08-442 99 30

Sveriges Kvinnojouurers Riksförbund, SKR
The Swedish Association of Women's Shelters
E-mail: info@kvinnojour.com Website: www.kvinnojour.com
Tel: 08-642 64 01

Terrafem
(On call for immigrant women and girls in a number of languages)
E-mail: info@terrafem.org Website: www.terrafem.org
Tel: 020-52 10 10

In addition there is a national body set up by the Government to help women who have been battered or raped.

Rikskvinnocentrum, RKC
The National Center for Battered and Raped Women
Akademiska sjukhuset, 751 85 UPPSALA
Tel: 018-611 40 00 (day or night)
E-mail: see website/personal Website: www.akademiska.se/rkc