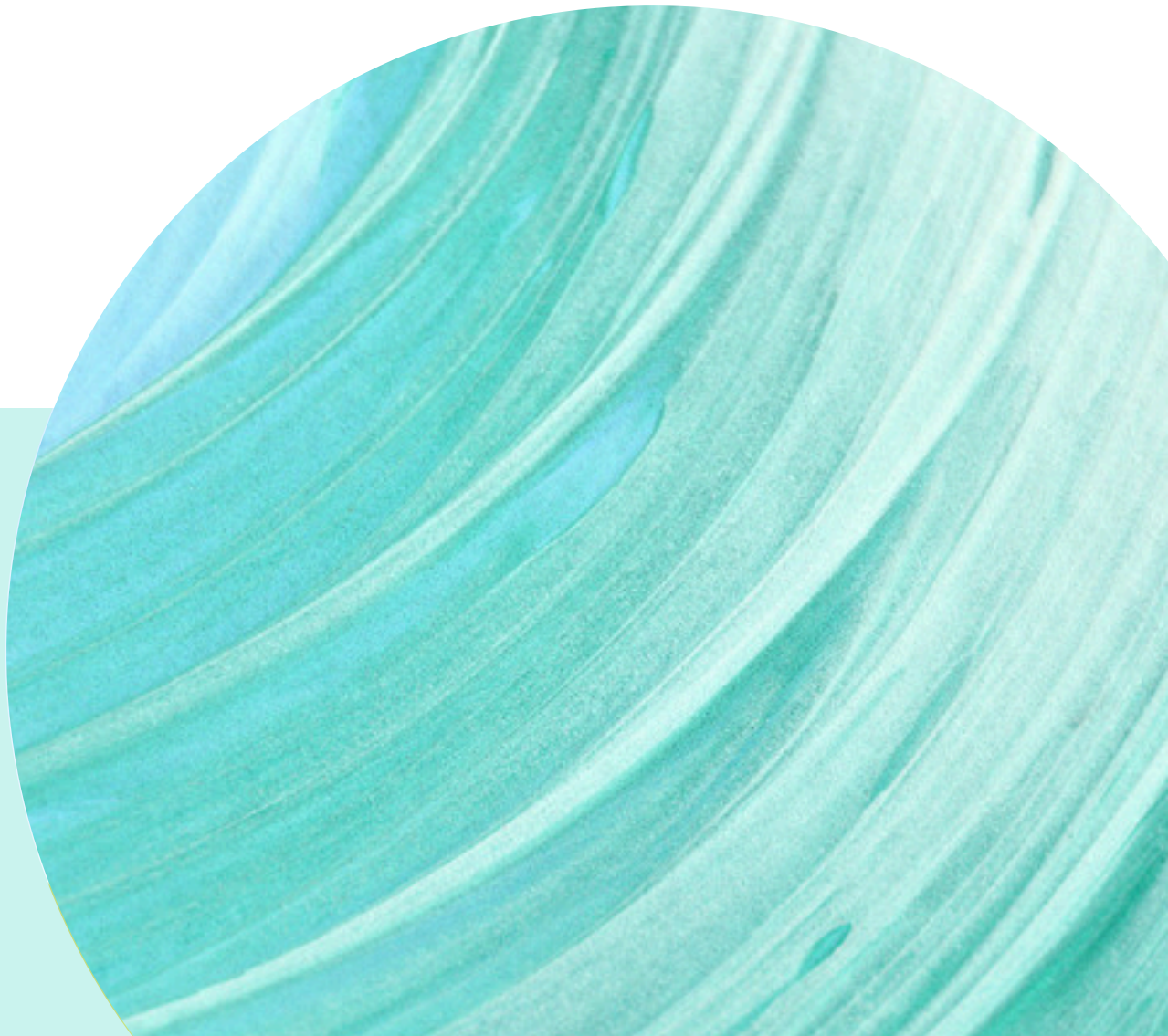


SAFE

SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINATION PAYMENT PROGRAM



FY2025 ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025



About Virginia Victims Fund

Mission:



- To administer the Compensating Victims of Crime Act with compassion, fairness, and efficiency.
- To treat every victim and survivor with dignity and respect, recognizing the significant impact of violent crime on individuals and society.

Funding Sources:



- Fees collected from individuals convicted of felonies and misdemeanors in Virginia courts.
- Federal grants provided from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).

Administration:



- Operated by the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission.

Compensation & Benefits:



- Benefits are capped at \$35,000 and may cover:
 - Wage Loss
 - Doctor and Hospital Bills
 - Counseling Services
 - Prescription Expenses
 - Moving Expenses

Additional Programs & Responsibilities:



- Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Payment Program:
Administers payment for sexual assault forensic exams across the Commonwealth.
- Unclaimed Restitution:
Reunites victims of crime with restitution money owed to them when courts are unable to locate the victims.
- Recovery of Debts:
Holds convicted offenders responsible for paying back the fund for awards made on underlying claims.



VIRGINIA VICTIMS FUND
Helping Innocent Victims of Crime
OFFICIALLY CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND

About the Commission



The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission

About

The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission (VWC), established in 1918, is an independent judicial and administrative state agency responsible for overseeing the workers' compensation system in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Commission is led by three Commissioners appointed by the General Assembly, each serving six-year terms. The current Commissioners are the Honorable Wesley G. Marshall, the Honorable R. Ferrell Newman and the Honorable Robert A. Rapaport. As of July 1, 2024, the Honorable Wesley G. Marshall began serving a three-year term as Chairman of the Commission. The Commission's Executive Director is Ms. Evelyn McGill, and the Chief Deputy Commissioner is the Honorable James J. Szablewicz.

VWC's Mission

To serve injured workers, victims of crimes, employers, and stakeholders across Virginia by delivering outstanding service, resolving disputes efficiently, and upholding the responsibilities entrusted to us by the Commonwealth with integrity and excellence.

VWC's Vision

To be recognized as the nation's most effective, responsive, and innovative state agency.



Words from the Commission Chairman:

On behalf of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission, I am pleased to recognize the work of the Virginia Victims Fund during Fiscal Year 2025.

As an integral part of the Commission, VVF continues to serve victims of violent crime with professionalism, compassion, and dedication. This year, the team processed a high volume of cases while remaining focused on each individual's need for support and stability.

The work of VVF reflects the Commission's broader mission to deliver fair and timely service to all Virginians. We are also grateful for the strong relationships VVF maintains with advocates, healthcare providers, and law enforcement across the Commonwealth.

To the victims and survivors who placed their trust in us—thank you and we wish you good health and recovery. And to the VVF team—your commitment to this work makes a lasting impact. The Commission is proud of all that has been accomplished and remains committed to supporting this vital program.

The Honorable Wesley G. Marshall
VWC Chairman



FY25 SAFE Annual Report

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Director's Statement



This fiscal year has been both demanding and deeply meaningful for the Virginia Victims Fund. VVF processed 1,194 applications, responded to 9,170 emails, received 1776 faxes, answered more than 7,915 telephone calls, and provided steady support to victims and their families across the Commonwealth. One word best captures the spirit that carried us through this work: commitment.

The Virginia Victims Fund is committed to serving victims of violent crime with compassion, efficiency, and fairness. Every member of the VVF team brings a deep sense of purpose to their role, understanding the impact this work has on those navigating trauma and recovery.

We are committed to the victims we serve—whose strength, resilience, and courage remind us daily why this work matters.

We are committed to the victim witness advocates across the state who guide victims through the often complex process of applying for compensation. Their partnership is invaluable.

We are committed to medical providers who work with us to ensure timely and accurate documentation, and who often extend grace to victims through reduced costs or payment flexibility.

We are committed to forensic nurses whose care, expertise, and sensitivity help restore dignity to victims in their most vulnerable moments.

And we are equally proud of the broader organization we are part of—working each day alongside others who share our values and our mission of public service. Together, we carry out our responsibilities with shared purpose and deep dedication.

At the heart of it all is the VVF staff—a team of professionals who show up every day with integrity, compassion, and drive. Whether answering a phone call, reviewing evidence, or issuing compensation, every action reflects our unwavering commitment to those we serve.

This year has reinforced that while policies and procedures guide us, it is people—our team, our partners, and the victims we serve—who drive our mission forward. The Virginia Victims Fund remains committed. Now and always.

– Shannon Dion, Virginia Victims Fund Director

WebFile

WebFile – Modernizing Claim Processing



**SECURE.
STREAMLINED.
TRANSPARENT.**

WebFile is the Virginia Victims Fund's secure online system that allows providers, advocates, courts, and – soon – claimants to submit, track, and manage claims more efficiently. It reduces paperwork, increases transparency, and helps us process claims faster.



What is WebFile?

WebFile is an online claims management portal that allows authorized users to securely:

- Submit claim forms and documentation
- Monitor claim status in real time
- Upload missing or requested documents
- Review outgoing correspondence from VVF
- Request payments (when applicable)



Web File Users



PROVIDERS

Medical and service providers can submit documentation and monitor the status of claims directly, reducing delays in reimbursement and ensuring clean, complete records.



VICTIM/WITNESS ADVOCATES

Advocates from Victim/Witness Assistance Programs across Virginia are often the first point of contact for victims. WebFile allows them to quickly file applications on behalf of victims and upload pertinent documents.



FORENSIC NURSES (NEW IN FY25)

Forensic nurses can now file SAFE claims directly, request payment, and upload all documentation electronically. These frontline professionals can now act faster and more autonomously, helping streamline SAFE claim workflows and reducing administrative burdens on providers.



COMMONWEALTH COURTS (NEW IN FY25)

Clerks of the court can now submit documentation for unclaimed restitution payments via WebFile. This improves accuracy and efficiency in restitution fund processing, helping VVF reunite victims with money they are owed.



CLAIMANTS (COMING IN FY26)

Claimants will be able to file their own claims, upload documentation, and check status online without relying on fax, mail, or an advocate to file on their behalf.

Our Why

Voices of Gratitude

Throughout the year, we are honored to receive words of appreciation from community partners and the individuals we serve—reminders of the impact the Virginia Victims Fund has in supporting victims across the Commonwealth.

I truly don't believe I could do my job as effectively without the help and support that VVF provides.

It's so easy and efficient to deal with actual people which makes turn around times on needed documents quicker.

The VVF Ombudsman is the most helpful VVF Ombudsman I have had the privilege to work with.

When I need information to be able to send a claim for payment consideration, they have always assisted quickly.

VVF staff are efficient, effective, patient, and kind.

I truly enjoy working with you all.

VVF Staff have consistently been both exceptionally helpful and unfailingly professional. VVF Staff's attentiveness and reliability make collaborating with them a pleasure.

Thank you for all that you do for both advocates and victims.

I find the process easy to work with. The staff is kind when responding to email submissions making them great and encouraging to work with.

I appreciate all your hard work, sincerity and dedication and want you to know you have left a lasting impression on me.

Thank you for your quick response and for being so helpful. You all have made this process simple and quick and I truly appreciate it!

I am grateful to work with a team that is dedicated to doing the right things for the right reasons.

All agencies are not the same with their ease of interaction. SAFE has always gone above and beyond to work with me and find an answer.

SAFE Payment Program



SAFE: SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINATION PAYMENT PROGRAM

The SAFE Program plays a critical role in ensuring that survivors of rape or sexual assault receive immediate, trauma-informed medical attention and forensic care. By paying for the Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) examination, the program alleviates the financial burden for survivors and providers, and ensures that physical evidence, such as DNA, are preserved.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SAFE COORDINATOR

“While undertaking complex and challenging work can be demanding, the positive outcomes it yields makes the effort profoundly rewarding and impactful. Witnessing the dedication of staff, nurses, and advocates is truly inspiring-and it is their commitment that makes all the difference.”

-Nikki Saba, SAFE Coordinator



SAFE - Exams & Demographics

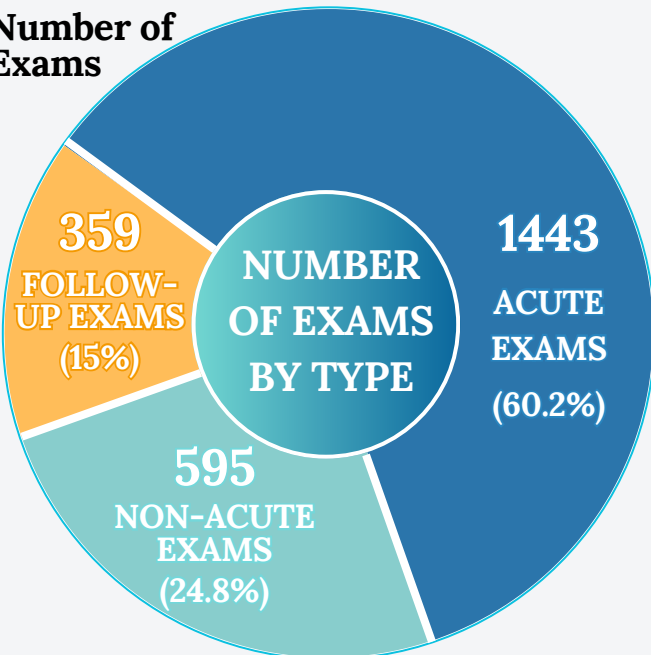
SAFE Exams

SAFE exams are categorized based on the timing and purpose of care. **Acute Exams** are performed within approximately 120 hours of an assault and are reimbursed at 60% of actual eligible costs, as set by Virginia law. **Non-Acute Exams**, completed beyond the 120-hour window, are reimbursed up to \$1,500 per case according to VVF policy. **Follow-Up Exams**—important for continuing care, such as injury documentation and STI testing—are capped at \$1,000 in reimbursement. Each exam plays a vital role in supporting survivors and maintaining the integrity of forensic evidence, regardless of whether a police report is filed.

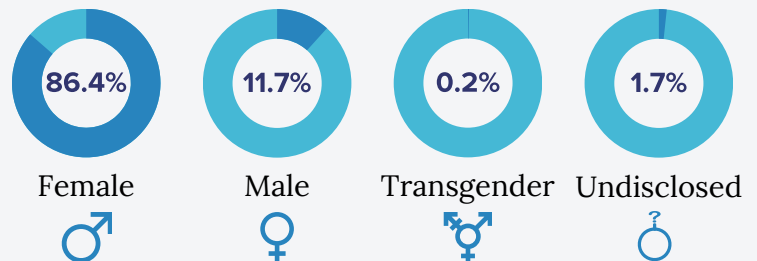


EXAM TYPES, CLAIM INFORMATION & CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

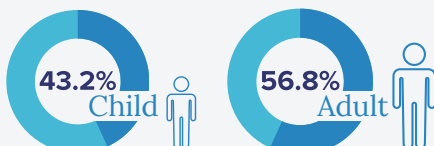
Number of Exams



Gender Insight



Age Insight



Ineligibility

Claims may be deemed ineligible if the incident occurred out of state, if required documentation is missing, or if the submitted expenses are outside the scope of the program's coverage.

SAFE Financials

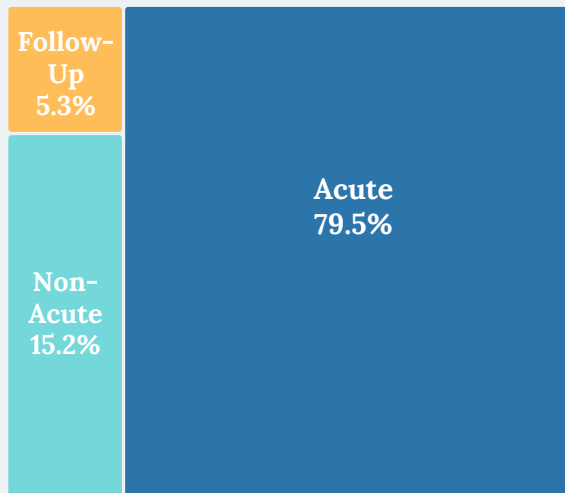
SAFE Financials

The SAFE Program's funding is vital to ensuring that survivors of sexual assault have access to immediate, specialized care without financial burden. Because the program is sustained entirely through General Funds, these dollars directly support the costs of acute, non-acute, and follow-up exams, enabling providers to deliver trauma-informed medical attention and preserve critical forensic evidence. The following financials reflect how this funding translates into tangible support for survivors and the providers who care for them.



SAFE FINANCIALS

SAFE Exam Expenses by Percentage



\$3,379,773
SAFE
Payments



2,262
New
Claims



2,407
Eligible
Expenses



5 Days
Average time
to make an
award



FY25 Revenue
\$3,790,000

The SAFE Payment Program
is funded by General Funds.

Exam Type

Amount Billed (Requested by Providers)
Amount of Reimbursement (by SAFE)

Acute

\$4,674,525.27
\$2,753,459.41

Non-Acute

\$1,181,625.10
\$553,427.62

Follow Up

\$414,179.00
\$186,506.86

*Requested expenses are reduced by payments from third parties such as private and public insurance or are not reimbursed due to ineligibility.
The amount of reimbursements reflects tallies after end of fiscal year reconciliation.*

Accomplishments

REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF MEANINGFUL PROGRESS, RESILIENCE, AND IMPACT IN SERVICE TO VICTIMS OF CRIME ACROSS VIRGINIA.



Expanded Language Access

VVF broadened its communication access by implementing Spanish voice prompts in the call center and translating critical materials—including applications and various forms—into Spanish, Arabic, Korean, Vietnamese, and both Simplified and Traditional Chinese. These efforts aimed to reduce language barriers and ensure that more survivors can access support and resources in their preferred language.



Enhanced Outreach to Tribal Communities

In collaboration with community partners, VVF disseminated program information at tribal events held throughout the Commonwealth. These outreach efforts strengthened connections with tribal communities and increased awareness of available victim services among historically underserved populations.



Increased WebFile Access for Key Stakeholders

WebFile access was expanded to include forensic nurses and clerks of court, allowing for the electronic submission of claims and restitution information. This enhancement improved efficiency, reduced paperwork, and provided users with secure, 24/7 access to claim status updates.



Website Improvements for Easier Navigation

VVF redesigned key sections of its website to streamline access to important documents and resources. Improved site navigation ensures that survivors, advocates, and professionals can more easily find the information they need to support claim submissions and service delivery.

The Way Forward

AS VVF CONTINUES TO PRIORITIZE ACCESSIBILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES, SEVERAL KEY INITIATIVES ARE PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR:

Launch of WebFile for Victims and Claimants

VVF is preparing to launch a new WebFile portal that will allow victims and claimants to electronically submit applications and supporting claim documentation. This system will streamline the application process, reduce delays associated with mailed forms, and provide 24/7 access for users to check the status of their claims—improving both convenience and transparency.

Expansion of Sample Document Library

To support claimants in submitting complete and accurate applications, VVF will expand the online library of sample documents. These examples are intended to help users better understand the types of documentation that strengthen a claim, ultimately reducing processing time and improving outcomes.

Increased Language Access

Recognizing the importance of equitable access, VVF plans to translate additional forms and documents to serve non-English-speaking claimants. This expansion will help eliminate language-related barriers and ensure that more survivors can engage with the program in their preferred language.

Implementation of Legislative Changes

Recent updates to the Fund's statutory authority will take effect for crimes occurring on or after July 1, 2025. These changes will:

- Extend the application window from one to three years after the date of the crime.
- Remove the requirement that victims cooperate with law enforcement in order to qualify for benefits.
- Allow victims to provide contextual information—such as mental, emotional, or family circumstances—to explain any delay in reporting.
- Permit submission of a permanent protective order as a valid explanation for delayed reporting.

These legislative changes reflect a more trauma-informed and survivor-centered approach, and VVF will be updating internal processes and external communications to ensure claimants and partners are fully informed.



Contact Us

Virginia Victims Fund

800-552-4007

P.O. Box 26927, Richmond, VA 23261

virginiavictimsfund.org

VVF: info@virginiavictimsfund.org

SAFE: safe@virginiavictimsfund.org

