

FY2024 SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINATION (SAFE)

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Payment Program Review for FY2024:
July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024



About the Fund



The mission of the Virginia Victims Fund is to administer the Compensating Victims of Crime Act in a compassionate, fair and efficient manner. In so doing, the Fund strives to treat every victim and survivor with dignity and respect, recognizing the tremendous impact that violent crime has upon the victim and our society.



The program is funded through fines levied against individuals convicted of felonies and misdemeanors in the Courts of the Commonwealth and through federal grants under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).



The Virginia Victims Fund is administered by the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission.



Benefits are limited to a total of \$35,000 and are payable for medical expenses, wage loss, moving expenses, crime scene clean-up, counseling costs, and other expenses incurred by or on behalf of a victim. In homicide cases, funeral or burial expenses are payable up to \$10,000; eligible relatives may receive survivors' counseling; and dependent survivors may receive compensation for loss of support from the victim.



As of July of 2008, the Fund also administers the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Payment Program for the Commonwealth.

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 that oversees the workers' compensation system for the Commonwealth. The Commission is headed by three Commissioners who are chosen by the General Assembly and serve six-year terms. The Honorable R. Ferrell Newman, the Honorable Wesley G. Marshall and the Honorable Robert A. Rapaport are the current Commissioners, with Rapaport serving as Chairman from July, 2021 until June, 2024. The Honorable Wesley G. Marshall begins his three-year term as Chairman on July 1, 2024. Ms. Evelyn McGill is the Executive Director and the Honorable James J. Szablewicz is the Chief Deputy Commissioner.

VWC's Mission

To serve injured workers, victims of crimes, employers, and related industries by providing exceptional services, resolving disputes, and faithfully executing the duties entrusted to us by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

VWC's Vision

Lead the nation as the most effective and innovative state agency.



Words from the Commission Chairman:

The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission is dedicated to serving the citizens of the Commonwealth with fairness, efficiency and integrity. Our mission is to ensure that all Virginians have access to the support and services they need in the wake of workplace injuries. The Virginia Victims Fund plays a critical role in this mission, providing essential support to those affected by crime. As we move forward, our focus remains on continuous improvements and delivering the best possible outcomes for those we serve.

The Honorable Robert A. Rapaport
VWC Chairman, 7/2021-6/2024



FY24 SAFE Annual Report

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Director's Statement

Shannon Dion
Director, Virginia Victims Fund



This fiscal year has been busy for the VVF team. We have processed 1,469 applications, 5,310 emails, 2,353 faxes, fielded more than 8,000 telephone calls, and more. Despite the work, the resulting energy of this past year can be summarized in one concept: **gratitude**.

I am personally grateful to work alongside an incredible team of **dedicated professionals** who strive to do their best every day.

We are grateful for the **victims** we serve, for their patience, their persistence, and for reminding us why we do the work.

We are grateful for the **victim witness advocates** who work tirelessly to help victims navigate the complex and lengthy compensation process.

We are grateful for **medical providers** who provide detailed billing statements and are willing to reduce debt owed by victims of crime.

We are grateful for the **forensic nurses** who delicately collect evidence while reassuring sexual assault victims.

We are grateful for **law enforcement** personnel who respond to crimes and forward their reports so that we can determine eligibility.

There is so much to be grateful for.

For those of you who are only familiar with the VVF team, it is important to know that VVF does not work in a silo. We are part of a larger agency that includes other dedicated professionals who support the compensation process.

VVF relies on the **Commission's Financial Services Department** to review and approve awards, enter award data in the Commonwealth's financial systems, manage the fund, and maintain our budget.

VVF would have to resort to paper and pens if not for the brilliant technology experts in our **Information Systems Department**, the **Project Management Office**, and the **Help Desk**.

Every new VVF team member comes aboard because of the Commission's dedicated **Human Resources** team that manages our recruitment process.

Every piece of VVF mail that is issued, received, to include checks, is carefully handled by the Commission's **Correspondence Management Department**.

And with the support of our various leaders and team members, led by the **Executive Director** and **Commissioners**, we are empowered to thoughtfully carry out our statutory responsibilities.

Stab Gratitude

At the Virginia Victims Fund, our team is driven by a shared passion for making a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve, and this dedication fuels our love for the work we do every day.

THAT I AM STILL
DOING VICTIM
ADVOCACY
WORK.

TO BE PART OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS THE ABILITY TO GIVE A BIT OF CONTROL BACK TO CRIME VICTIMS DURING A PERIOD IN THEIR LIVES THAT IS SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL.

THAT I CAN
COME INTO
WORK
EVERYDAY AND
MAKE A
POSITIVE
IMPACT ON
SOMEONE'S
LIFE.

THAT I AM DOING
SOMETHING I CAN FEEL
PROUD OF.

FOR OUR PRO-
ACTIVE TEAM
THAT IS ALWAYS
STRIVING TO
SERVE VICTIMS IN
A MORE
EFFICIENT AND
COMPASSIONATE
MANNER.

FOR THE LEADERSHIP TEAM AND ALL OF THEIR HARD WORK AND SUPPORT THEY PROVIDE TO THEIR STAFF.

I am grateful...

TO BE ABLE TO
EXPLAIN COURT
PROCESSES TO
VICTIMS OF
CRIME.

FOR THE LITTLE
MOMENTS THAT
HAPPEN EACH DAY
REMINDING ME THAT
THE WORK MATTERS.

WHEN I CAN AWARD A CLAIM,
BECAUSE IT'S ONE LESS
EXPENSE FOR THE VICTIM TO
WORRY ABOUT.

FOR THE EFFORTS OF OUR TECHNOLOGY TEAM
FOR WORKING ON MASSIVE UPGRADES TO OUR
DATABASE. THE IMPROVEMENTS WILL
STREAMLINE MANY OF OUR PROCESSES.

FOR THE RELATIONSHIPS MADE WITH THE FORENSIC NURSING COMMUNITY. I AM AFFORDED THE REMARKABLE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH AN AMAZING GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WHO GIVE OF THEMSELVES SELFLESSLY TO ASSIST THOSE WHO ARE EXPERIENCING A TRAUMATIC EVENT IN THEIR LIVES. THEIR EFFORTS DO NOT GO UNNOTICED; THEY TRULY ARE REAL LIFE SUPERHEROES!

SAFE Payment Program



SAFE: SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINATION PAYMENT PROGRAM

The SAFE program is crucial because it ensures that survivors of rape or sexual assault receive timely, compassionate, and **free** forensic exams, preserving evidence that is vital for legal proceedings. The SAFE Program helps to remove financial barriers for survivors, encouraging reporting and supporting the journey toward healing.

SAFE Exams

ACUTE

Acute Exams are done within approximately 120 hours of an assault. Virginia law caps the reimbursement rate for acute exams at 60% of actual eligible costs.

NON-ACUTE

Non-Acute Exams are done more than 120 hours after an assault. Commission policy caps the reimbursement for non-acute exams at \$1,500 of actual eligible costs.

FOLLOW-UP

Follow-Up Exams are done as a continuum of care for victims and can include documenting injuries and testing for sexually transmitted infections. Commission policy caps the reimbursement for follow-up exams at \$1,000 of actual eligible costs.

FY2024

1,858

NEW
CLAIMS
RECEIVED

1,910

ELIGIBLE &
AWARDED
EXPENSES

FOLLOW-UP
4.5%

NON-ACUTE
15.5%

ACUTE
80%

TYPE OF EXAM

6 Days

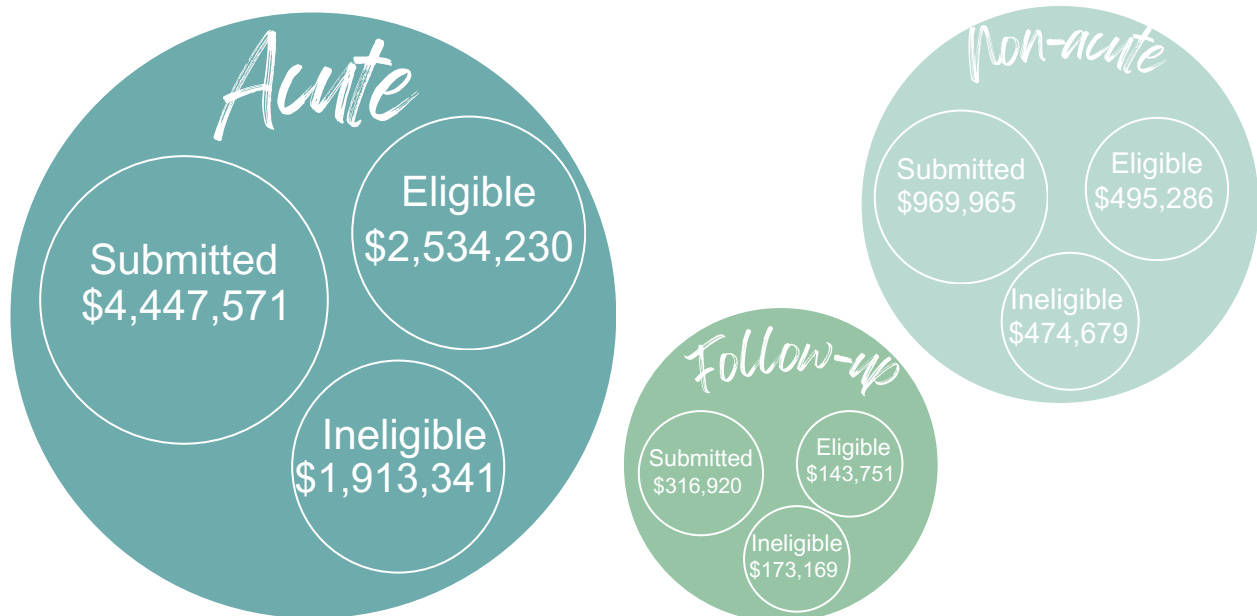
Average time to receive,
review and make an award

\$3,029,515

Paid by SAFE for forensic
evidence collection and
associated expenses in
FY2024

SAFE Exams

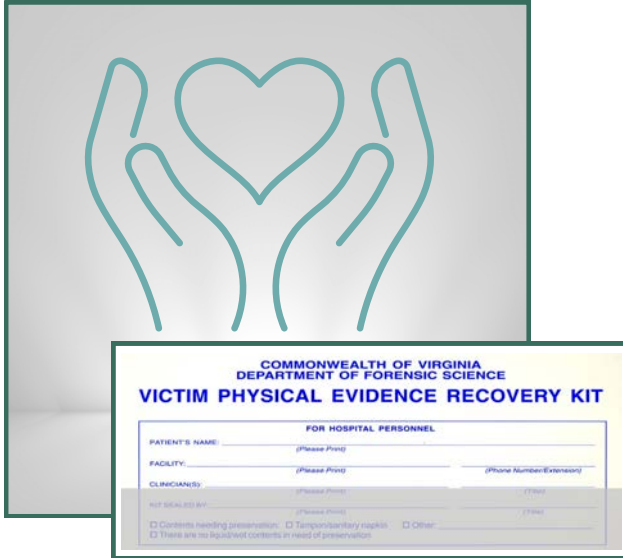
SAFE Exams: Acute, Non-acute and Follow-up: Submitted, Eligible and Ineligible



Why may a claim be deemed ineligible?

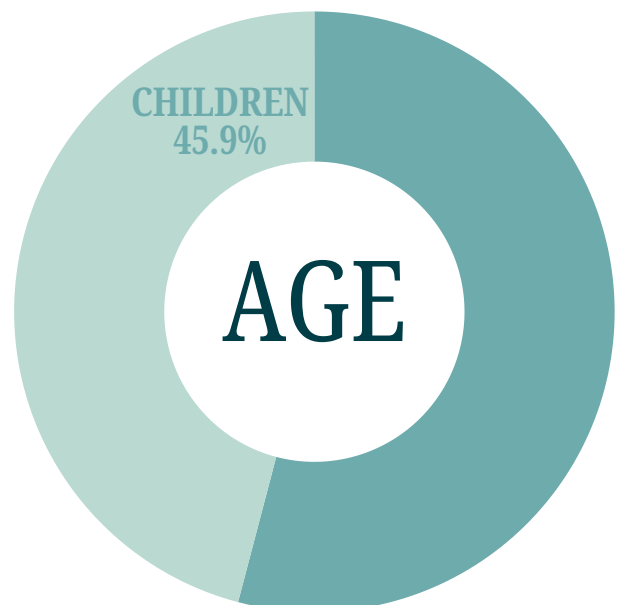
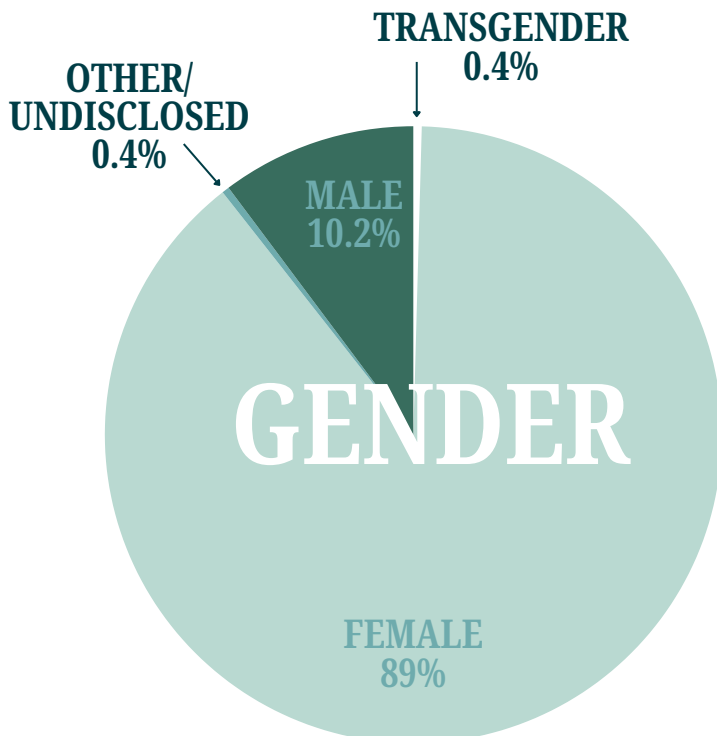
- It was an out of state incident,
- Failure to provide necessary documentation,
- The expenses submitted for were not covered by the program (but may be covered by the Virginia Supreme Court).

SAFE Payment Program



Health care providers bill the SAFE Payment Program directly, so victims do not need to worry about filing for reimbursement in what is already a stressful and emotional time. Evidence is collected through a Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) and does not require the filing of a police report if the PERK is completed within 120 hours of the incident.

DEMOGRAPHICS



SAFE Payment Program



WORDS FROM THE FIELD

"You are always so helpful and patient! Thank you!"

- CHKD - Child Abuse Program

"I sooo appreciate everything you and your team do... not only for our patients but for us nurses too!"

- Forensic Nurse Examiner

"Thank you so much for your leadership in improving reimbursements for the forensic nursing programs! I appreciate all of the work that you are doing."

- Virginia Dept. of Criminal Justice Services

"I appreciate you making this as smooth and simple as you have!"

- E, parent of a juvenile sexual assault patient



Contact VVF

Virginia Victims Fund

800-552-4007

P.O. Box 26927, Richmond, VA 23261

virginiavictimsfund.org

VVF: info@virginiavictimsfund.org

SAFE: safe@virginiavictimsfund.org



VIRGINIA VICTIMS FUND

Helping Innocent Victims of Crime

OFFICIALLY CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND