

Texas Crime Victims Civil Legal Services Program Eligibility Guidelines

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for CVCLS services, there must be a relationship between the type of criminal activity involved, the specific injury suffered by the victim and the legal service to be rendered. The victim must not earn more than 187.5 percent of the U.S. poverty guidelines and must meet one of the following conditions:

Condition A

1) Be a resident of Texas, the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. territory or possession and 2) suffer personal injury or death in Texas as a result of criminally injurious conduct or as a result of actions taken as an intervener

Condition B

1) Be a Texas resident and 2) suffer personal injury or death as a result of criminally injurious conduct or as a result of actions taken as an intervener in a state or country without victims' compensation and 3) be entitled to compensation if incident had occurred in Texas

Condition C

1) Be a Texas resident and 2) suffer personal injury or death as a result of criminally injurious conduct caused by an act of international terrorism committed outside the United States

Definition of "Texas resident"

CVCLS uses the Texas Administrative Code's definition of "Texas resident," which includes "a person who is in Texas with the intent to establish a permanent presence within the state. A person who is in Texas in pursuit of temporary business, recreational activities or whose presence in Texas is of a transient nature is not a resident of this state. A person resides in Texas if they occupy a dwelling and maintain an ongoing physical presence." --Texas Administrative Code §61.2 (9)

Definition of "personal injury"

"Personal injury" is defined in the code of criminal procedure as physical or mental harm (e.g., emotional abuse).

Crimes covered

Following are examples of crimes covered under CVCLS (non-inclusive list):

- Sexual assault
- Kidnapping
- Robbery
- Assault
- Homicide
- Vehicular crimes (failure to stop and render aid, DWI, manslaughter and others)

Qualifications

To qualify for civil legal services under CVCLS funding, an individual must be one of the following:

- Victim of crime
- Authorized individual acting on behalf of a victim of crime
- Dependent of a victim of crime
- Immediate family member of a victim of crime (must be related within second degree by marriage or blood)
- Household member of a victim of crime and require psychiatric care or counseling
- Authorized individual acting on behalf of a child who is a dependent of a victim of crime who died as a result of the crime
- Authorized individual acting on behalf of a child who is an immediate family or household member of a victim of crime who requires counseling or psychiatric care as a result of the crime
- Individual who legally or voluntarily assumes medical and or burial expenses of a victim of crime