



\*\*You can also file a **civil lawsuit** against your offender for recovery for your expenses as a result of this crime. If you decide to file a civil lawsuit, you will need to see a private attorney who will explain your choices and advise you.

\*\*You can file a **property lien** in the Office of the Judge of Probate in the county in which the offender resides. This lien can become a part of the offender's credit file. The lien will be removed only when the offender has paid the full amount of restitution owed. If you decide to file a lien, you will need to obtain a lien form from the Probate Judge's Office in your county and ask for information as to how to file the lien.

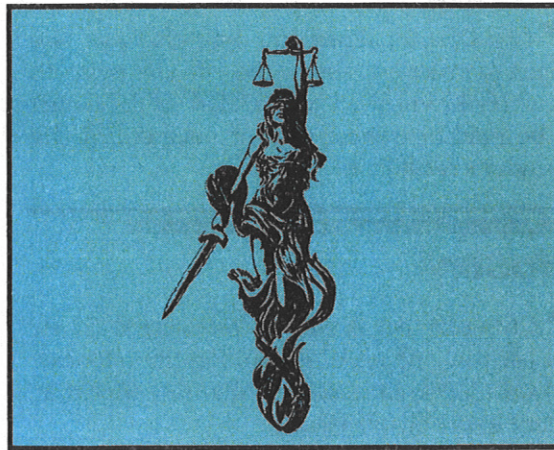
\*\*The District Attorney can ask the court to issue a **writ of garnishment** on the offender's wages. This means that the offender's employer may be asked to withhold a certain amount of the offender's wages as payment of restitution. The amount that can be withheld is set up by law and possibly will not be the same as the amount of the payment the court ordered the offender to pay.

\*\*You can consult with your local **District Attorney's Office** for information concerning restitution enforcement. The District Attorney will keep you informed of your rights as a victim of crime.

**CRIME DOESN'T PAY.....**

**VICTIMS DO !**

**HOW YOU  
CAN GET RESTITUTION  
FOR YOUR LOSSES**



A Brochure for Victims  
Prepared by the

**ALABAMA CRIME VICTIMS  
COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

P.O. BOX 1548  
MONTGOMERY, AL 36102-1548

(205) 242-4007

1-800-541-9388 (Victims only)

**WHAT IS RESTITUTION?**



Restitution is the money paid back to the victim from the offender. In most cases, the judge orders the offender to pay back the losses caused to the victim. These may include the cost of items stolen, medical bills, lost wages, counseling costs, and other losses.

The Court may take several things into consideration before ordering the amount of restitution, such as:

- the ability of the offender to pay
- the hardship on the victim as a result of the crime
- the mental and financial well-being of the victim
- other considerations as set out by Alabama law.

**HOW DO I ASK FOR  
RESTITUTION?**

You should contact your District Attorney's Office and ask the Victim Service Officer to assist you with listing your expenses for use by the court. Most counties have forms available for this purpose.

The amount of restitution is based on the amount of your losses and the offender's ability to pay.

If the Court orders the offender to pay restitution, the judge will order the payments be made to you as the victim or to those who

provided services for you such as hospitals, doctors, ambulance services, etc.

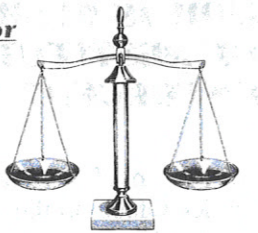
Also, if you are a victim of violent crime, and if the **Alabama Crime Victim Compensation Commission** has paid some of your bills, the Court may order payments be made to repay the Commission.



**WHAT DO I LIST AS  
RESTITUTION?**

- \*\* MISSED WORK (PAY PER HOUR x HOURS LOST)
- \*\* MEDICAL EXPENSES (DOCTORS, AMBULANCE, ETC.)
- \*\* FUNERAL EXPENSES
- \*\* PROPERTY EXPENSES (REPLACE, REPAIR, CLEAN)
- \*\* TRAVEL EXPENSES (25 cents PER MILE)
- \*\* COUNSELING EXPENSES (HOURS/HOURLY RATE)
- \*\* The offender is entitled to a Restitution Hearing. Make certain that you have given accurate bills.

**Do not list items or claim expenses that are not related to the crime that was committed against you.**



**DO NOT EXAGGERATE YOUR BILLS  
TO THE COURT**