

LAW ON SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME  
Chapter Three "Forms of Assistance and Financial Compensation to Victims of crime"

Art. 8. (1) The forms of assistance to victims of crime are:

1. medical assistance for emergency conditions under the Health Act;
2. psychological counselling and assistance;
3. (supplemented, SG 51/2016, in force from 6.10.2016) free legal aid under the Legal Aid Act;
4. practical assistance.

(2) (new - SG 48/2023, in force from 1.09.2023) The family members of the victim, who have suffered material and non-material damages from crimes of common nature, may use the forms of assistance under par. 2 and 4.

(3) (former para. 2 - SG 48/2023, in force from 1.09.2023) The persons referred to in Art. 3, para. 2 may use the forms of assistance referred to in para. 1, т. 2 - 4.

(4) (amend. - SG 51/2016, in force from 6.10.2016, former para. 3, amend., Art. 48 2023, in force from 1.09.2023) The forms of support under par. 1(2) and (4) shall be provided in accordance with the principle of confidentiality before the initiation of criminal proceedings, during or within an appropriate period of time after the conclusion of criminal proceedings in accordance with the needs of the persons referred to in Article 3(3)(a) and (b). 1 и 2.

(5) (New - SG No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016, previous paragraph 4, No. 48 of 2023, in force from 1.09.2023) If necessary, the free psychological consultation and assistance under para. 1, item 2 shall also be provided after the decision under Art. 24.

Art. 9. (1) (Supplement - SG No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016) Free psychological consultation and assistance are provided by specialists - psychologists from the victims' support organizations, according to the needs of the victims and his psychological state.

(2) (Amended - SG No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016) The activity under para. 1 is financed by the Ministry of Justice, being determined by the rules for the application of the law in compliance with the rules for state aid, as well as by the choice of organizations for the procedure to support the victims, the states and the order for the financing, reporting and control of the activity.

(3) (Repealed - SG No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016).

Art. 10. (Repealed - SG No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016).

Art. 11. (1) Victim support organizers and all other legal entities that come into contact with crime victims in the performance of their activities are obliged to provide them with practical assistance.

(2) (Supplement - SG No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016) Practical assistance is expressed in the provision of relevant information boards and other materials on the rights of victims of crimes in a prominent place law, in creating a calm and favorable environment when making contact with them, in providing information about the risk of secondary and repeated victimization, of intimidation or retaliation, as well as in providing advice on limiting them.

(3) (New - SG No. 51 of 6.10.2016, in force from 6.10.2016) Consumers who are suitable for supporting the victim, provide shelter or are otherwise temporarily available to victims of crimes, for to be at imminent risk of secondary and re-victimization, harassment and retaliation.

Art. 12. (1) (New - SG No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016) Victims of crimes have the right to one-time financial compensation under the conditions and according to the procedure of this law.

(2) (Previous text of Art. 12 – SG No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016) The financial compensation is provided after entry into force of:

1. the conviction, including in cases where the case was considered in the absence of the defendant;

2. (new - SG No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016) the agreement to resolve the case in the pre-trial proceedings;

3. (amended - SG No. 32 of 2010, in force from 28.05.2010, previous item 2, No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016, amended, No. 63 of 2017, in force from 5.11.2017) the prosecutor's or court act by which the criminal proceedings were terminated, with the exception of cases where the termination is based on Art. 24, para. 1, items 1, 7, 8a and 9 of the Criminal Procedure Code;

4. (previous item 3 - SG No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016) the prosecutor's or court act by which the criminal proceedings were suspended due to non-disclosure of the perpetrator of the crime.

Art. 13. (Amended - SG No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016) (1) The financial compensation is expressed in the provision by the state of a sum of money, with the maximum amount per person under Art. 3, para. 1 or for the persons under Art. 3, para. 2 cannot exceed BGN 10,000.

(2) When the financial compensation is provided for maintenance of persons under Art. 3, para. 2, under the age of 18, the amount for each person is up to BGN 10,000.

Art. 14. (1) (Previous text of Art. 14 – SG No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016) The financial compensation covers, together or separately, the property damages that are a direct consequence of the crime and are expressed in:

1. treatment costs, with the exception of costs covered by the budget of the National Health Insurance Fund;

2. lost income;

3. costs of payment of court and administrative expenses;

4. missed means of maintenance;

5. funeral expenses;

6. other property damages.

(2) (New - SG No. 51 of 2016, in force from 6.10.2016) The procedure for establishing the damages under para. 1 and the payment of the financial compensation are determined by the rules for implementing the law.

Art. 15. (1) Financial compensation is not provided when:

1. the victim was convicted of a crime under Art. 3, para. 3 in the last 5 years before submitting the request for financial compensation;

2. the act was committed in a state of great irritation, which was caused by the victim with an illegal act, from which severe consequences occurred or were likely to occur for the guilty person or for his neighbors;

3. the act was committed when the limits of unavoidable defense were exceeded;

4. the victim received compensation in another way;

5. the victim did not notify the competent authorities of the commission of the crime, unless he could not do so for valid reasons.

(2) When the victim contributed to the occurrence of the criminal result, this leads to a reduction of the financial compensation he would have received.

Art. 16. The Minister of Justice immediately after payment of the financial compensation brings a recourse claim against the perpetrator of the crime or his heirs for the recovery of the paid amount.