

SENATE, No. 4024

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Expands locations where information on availability of crime victims' compensation is to be posted or disseminated to include courtrooms and emergency rooms.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning crime victims' compensation and amending
2 P.L.1981, c.256.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1981, c.256 (C.52:4B-22) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. **【**Every State, county, and municipal police department
10 and hospital or other place of emergency medical care shall have
11 available and shall post in a public place information**】** The Victims
12 of Crime Compensation Office shall supply information booklets,
13 pamphlets, or other pertinent written information**【**, to be supplied
14 by the Victims of Crime Compensation Agency,**】** relating to the
15 availability of crime victims' compensation, including all necessary
16 application blanks required to be filed with the **【agency】** office, and
17 shall post or disseminate this information in a public place in every:

18 (1) State, county, and municipal police department;

19 (2) courtroom in each county courthouse and municipal court;
20 and

21 (3) hospital or other place of emergency care including, but not
22 limited to, every emergency department of a general hospital and
23 every satellite emergency department licensed pursuant to P.L.1971,
24 c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.).

25 b. Included in the information supplied by the **【**Victims of
26 Crime Compensation Agency**】** office shall be information for
27 victims of sexual offenses. This information shall contain the
28 location of rape crisis centers in all geographical areas throughout
29 the State and shall instruct victims of sexual offenses that if a rape
30 crisis center is not available in a victim's immediate geographical
31 area, the victim may contact the appropriate county victim-witness
32 coordinator appointed by the Chief of the Office of Victim-Witness
33 Advocacy established pursuant to P.L.1985, c.404 (C.52:4B-39 et
34 seq.). The information shall also provide that victims will not be
35 charged any fee for services that are directly associated with a
36 forensic sexual assault examination, including routine medical
37 screening, medications for prophylaxis of sexually transmitted
38 infections, pregnancy tests, emergency contraception, supplies,
39 equipment, and use of space.

40 Unless the victim requires immediate medical attention, this
41 information shall be personally conveyed to the victim of a sexual
42 offense by a representative of the hospital or place of emergency
43 care before a medical examination of the victim is conducted, or by
44 a representative of the police department before the victim's
45 statement is taken, to afford the victim the opportunity to arrange to

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 have assistance from the rape crisis center or county victim-witness
2 coordinator during these procedures. Hospitals shall be held
3 harmless from suits emanating from a hospital's carrying out the
4 obligation to convey information to victims of sexual offenses.

5 "Rape crisis center" means an office, institution or center
6 offering assistance to victims of sexual offenses through crisis
7 intervention, medical and legal information, and follow-up
8 counseling.

9 c. Every police department shall, upon the filing of a report of
10 a violent crime, make available to any victim information
11 concerning crime victims' compensation.

12 (cf: P.L.2011, c.106, s.1)

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14 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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19 This bill expands the locations where information booklets,
20 pamphlets, and other information concerning the availability of
21 crime victims' compensation is to be posted or disseminated.

22 Current law requires the Victims of Crime Compensation Office
23 (VCCO) to supply information booklets, pamphlets, and other
24 pertinent written information relating to the availability of crime
25 victims' compensation, including application blanks, and to post or
26 make this information available in every State, county, and
27 municipal police department, as well as in every hospital or other
28 place of emergency medical care.

29 This bill expands the locations where the information is to be
30 posted or disseminated to include courtrooms in each county
31 courthouse and municipal court. The bill also clarifies that the
32 information is to be posted or disseminated in emergency rooms of
33 general hospitals and satellite emergency departments licensed by
34 the Department of Health.