

What You Need to Know About Restitution

What is restitution?

- Restitution is the amount of money ordered by the court to repay the victim or victim's insurance company for financial losses caused directly by the commission of a crime.
- Restitution is based on laws that limit what can be requested on your behalf.

Who pays restitution?

- The person (defendant) who has been convicted of the crime (s) and has been ordered to pay as part of their sentence.
- If ordered, the defendant makes payments to the King County Superior Court Clerk's Office, and the payments are then forwarded to you.
- If the defendant is legally declared indigent, you may not receive restitution.

When is restitution ordered?

- The Court orders restitution after the defendant is sentenced.
- It is important that the Victim Loss Statement and all supporting documents be returned to the Victim Assistance Unit *as soon as possible* so our office can review the documents and prepare an order for the judge to review and sign.

You can email your documents to: PAOVAU-Adult@kingcounty.gov

There is a limited amount of time to order criminal restitution on your behalf. **If your completed paperwork is not returned in a timely manner, restitution may not be ordered.**

What else do I need to know?

- You may not receive your restitution payments all at one time. The defendant and the Superior Court Clerk's Office (Collections Department) develop a payment plan.
- The Court may waive interest from accruing on restitution per RCW 10.82.090. If eliminating *interest* will be a financial hardship for you, please check the box and provide an explanation on the enclosed Victim Impact Statement or the Victim Loss Statement.
- The King County Prosecutor's Office does not collect or distribute restitution.
- If you have not received a restitution payment within six months after it has been ordered, please call the **King County Superior Court Clerk's Office (Collections Department) at (206) 477-0818**.
- Inform the King County Superior Court Clerk's Office of any changes to your address or telephone number. Failure to do so may prevent you from receiving restitution payments.

Superior Court Clerk's Office
516 3rd Ave, #E-609
Attn: Disbursements
Seattle, WA 98104.
(206) 477-0818

Please include the King County Cause Number with all correspondence