



Victims Assistance Unit

Guideline 8

Granting Financial Assistance for Relocation Under Exceptional Circumstances

This guideline is issued pursuant to section 131 of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* (the Act) for Government assessors on the exercise of their powers in assessing claims for financial assistance. Nothing in this guideline supersedes or overrides the requirements of the legislation.

1. This guideline describes how reasonable relocation expenses required because of an act of violence should be determined by an assessor in a grant of financial assistance.
2. An assessor may consider reasonable relocation costs for eligible applicants under the component “exceptional circumstances” in certain circumstances for example, where re-location is required to re-establish personal safety. “Exceptional circumstances” must exist as required by sections 39, 42, 45 and 49 of the Act. An assessor may consider an applicant’s special needs in determining a grant of assistance but must be satisfied that the expense will significantly help the applicant recover from the act of violence
3. An assessor may approve a grant of financial assistance for the following relocation expenses:
 - Reasonable removal expenses (e.g. transportation costs, vehicle or trailer hire);
 - Reasonable storage expenses (up to six months);
 - Reasonable relocation expenses (e.g. airfares, petrol costs); and
 - Up to three months emergency accommodation. An assessor must not approve a payment to a government funded accommodation service if it is funded to provide emergency accommodation free of charge for victims of crime.

4. An assessor ordinarily will not approve a grant of financial assistance for general living expenses such as rent or bond as part of a grant of assistance for relocation.

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