

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT RESTITUTION**

### **1. What is restitution?**

*Restitution is the repayment of certain damages or expenses incurred by a victim as a direct result of a crime.*

### **2. What expenses qualify for repayment?**

*Qualifying expenses generally include the following: property damage based on actual repair or replacement costs; medical and hospital costs; medical laboratory tests; and funeral/burial/cremation costs (for homicide victims).*

*It's important to note that exceptions may apply.*

*Contact our office with any questions about your specific situation.*

### **3. What documents do I need to provide?**

*You must provide proof of your costs during the restitution hearing. The final decision to order restitution rests exclusively with the Judge.*

### **4. When will I receive my money?**

*In some cases, the Judge may order the defendant to repay the victim for any losses. This restitution is paid to the Lawrence County Clerk's Office and then sent on to the victim.*

*Please understand that, by law, the judge must consider whether or not the defendant has the ability to pay. If the Judge determines that restitution will be ordered, the defendant will not be able to start paying until they are on probation. The defendant has until the end of their probation to pay the amount in full. It is your responsibility to monitor payments of restitution. If the defendant has not paid the restitution in full by the end of their probation, you may contact the Lawrence County Probation Department.*

### **5. What else can I do?**

*Whether or not restitution is ordered, a victim may file a civil lawsuit for damages. Contact a private attorney to discuss civil action.*

***You may contact the Victim Assistance Division  
if you would like further assistance with your restitution claim.***