



STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 10

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON
CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE**

WHEREAS, the problem of violent crime continues to plague communities across both this state and nation; and

WHEREAS, each year in Tennessee thousands of innocent victims are terrorized by violent criminal acts that often result in crippling emotional, physical and financial injuries, both to the victim and the victim's family; and

WHEREAS, one of state government's greatest responsibilities is the protection of its citizenry. Meeting this responsibility requires that we work to ensure violent crime victims and their families receive the services and resources they need to deal effectively with the aftermath of violent crime; and

WHEREAS, over the last several years, our state has made significant strides in providing needed services and resources to violent crime victims and their families. Many departments, agencies and programs, both inside and outside of state government, play vital roles in enabling innocent victims and their families to deal with the aftermath of violent crime; and

WHEREAS, this administration fully appreciates its unique position to ensure that no innocent victim of violent crime or family member of an innocent victim of violent crime fails to receive the financial and emotional support for which he or she is qualified.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and law, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. The Governor's Commission on Crime Victim Assistance ("the Commission") is hereby established. The Commission is charged with providing recommendations and advice to the state Treasurer on issues relating to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund established pursuant to title 29, chapter 13, of Tennessee Code Annotated. In performing its work, the Commission is specifically directed to provide information, recommendations and advice on the adequacy and administration of benefits and grants provided to innocent crime victims by the criminal injuries compensation program.

In fulfilling its charge, the Commission shall also communicate with all existing programs and organizations, public and private, that provide financial and other services to victims of violent crimes and their families in an effort to ensure that the needs of victims and

their families are heard and that unmet needs are identified. These programs and organizations include, but are not limited to, the criminal injuries compensation program established pursuant to Title 29, chapter 13, of Tennessee Code Annotated; the victim compensation notification program contained in TCA section 40-38-109; the victims of crime assistance fund established pursuant to TCA section 9-4-205; the victim-witness coordinator program created pursuant to TCA section 8-7-206; the victims of crime state coordinating council created pursuant to TCA section 40-38-401, and any grant awarded and/or administered by the Office of Criminal Justice in the Department of Finance and Administration.

2. The Commission shall consist of nine (9) members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor. Members shall serve staggered, renewable terms of three (3) years. Initial terms of members will be staggered in the following manner:
 - a. Three (3) of the initial members will each serve three (3) year terms.
 - b. Three (3) of the initial members will each serve two (2) year terms.
 - c. Three (3) of the initial members will each serve one (1) year terms.

The members of the Commission appointed by the Governor shall be either victim advocates, victims of violent crime, family members of victims of violent crime or individuals who have demonstrated clear expertise in and understanding of the challenges faced by the innocent victims and family members of innocent victims of violent crime.

3. In making appointments to the Commission, the Governor shall give proper consideration to racial, cultural and geographic diversity in order to ensure that the membership of the Commission properly reflects the racial, cultural and geographic diversity of Tennessee.
4. In addition to the Commission membership established in paragraph two (2), the following individuals will serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the Commission:
 - a. The state Treasurer;
 - b. The Commissioner of Finance and Administration;
 - c. The Executive Director of the District Attorney Generals Conference.
5. The Governor shall appoint a chairperson from the membership of the Commission. The Commission shall elect from its membership a vice chairperson, secretary and any other officers deemed necessary by the chairperson. The secretary shall keep a written record of the proceedings of the Commission. All Commission officers shall serve one (1) year renewable terms.
6. The Commission shall meet at such times and places as determined by its Chairperson; provided however, that the commission shall meet at least one (1) time per calendar year, but no more than four (4) times per calendar year. Notwithstanding this provision, the chairperson may call special meetings as necessary to discuss unanticipated demands on the criminal injuries compensation fund.
7. The Governor's Commission on Crime Victim Assistance shall be attached to the Governor's office for administrative purposes.

8. Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their service on the Commission but may be reimbursed for those expenses allowed by the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration and approved by the Attorney General and Reporter.
9. All Executive branch departments, agencies, boards and commissions and any other divisions of the Executive branch of state government shall fully cooperate with the Governor's Commission on Crime Victim Assistance and shall provide staff support and any other assistance as requested.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 20th day of May, 2003.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE