

**Reimbursement by the Victims' Assistance Act (VAA, known as LAVI in French)  
of psychotherapeutic support and/or medical expenses subsequent to an act of violence**

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

You have been recognized as a victim within the scope of the LAVI Act. This Act can cover the financial cost of any psychological support and/or medical expenses **directly derived** from the offence, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, and under the following conditions:

**According to your situation, you must first send your invoices to one of the insurance companies listed below:**

- Your employer's accident insurance** if you are an employee.
  - If this is the case, you must fill out an **accident report (*déclaration d'accident*)**, on which you are not obliged to detail the circumstances of the event in accordance with the Data Protection Act (DPA). Please note that an offence is usually considered as an accident by the Accident Insurance Act (*LAA in French*).
- Your private health/accident insurance** if you do not have an employer, even if you have not signed an extended insurance policy. If your insurance requires you to pay in advance (e.g. ASSURA), you can ask your doctor/therapist to make an assignment of claim so that your invoices are sent directly to your insurance.
- At-fault driver's **liability insurance (RC)** if you are the victim of a **traffic accident**, but only if you do not have your own accident insurance, whether private or professional.
- Your AVS/AI compensation fund** for people receiving supplementary AVS or AI benefits, in order to be reimbursed according to the annual quota (available under certain conditions).
- Any other **private insurance** you have taken out that may cover these expenses.

If the above-mentioned insurances do not cover the costs directly related to the offence or cover them only partially, article 13 al. 1 of the LAVI Act provides that *"the counselling centers shall immediately provide the victim and his/her relatives with assistance to meet the most urgent needs arising from the offence (immediate assistance)"*. This includes, for example, ambulance costs, first aid services, etc.

In cases where the offence has had a significant psychological impact, the LAVI Center can also cover the cost of 10 to 15 **sessions with a psychotherapist**.

Please note that since the 1st of July 2022, the law requires that you obtain a prescription from your family doctor or from a health care center before you can start psychotherapy, so that its costs can be covered by your basic insurance in the absence of a professional accident insurance. The LAVI Center can also cover, if your insurance does not, the costs derived from the medical consultation necessary to obtain this prescription.

You must send your request for expenses reimbursement to the LAVI Center, enclosing:

- **The medical bill(s)**
- **The invoice(s)**
- **Proof(s) of payment** or, if applicable,
- **A refusal from your health or accident insurance(s) or other private insurance(s).**

As the LAVI Center needs all these documents in order to reimburse the costs not covered or only partially covered by your insurance, we kindly ask you to contact us again once you have received them all.

Your LAVI Center