

NEW JERSEY CRIME VICTIMS' LAW CENTER
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Richard D. Pompelio, Esq.
Executive Director

October 23, 2008

Via telefax 973-648-7031
Victims of Crime Compensation Agency
50 Park Place
Newark, NJ 07102
Attn: Doug Brooks

RE: VICTIM – KHIEM NGUYEN
CLAIMANT – KHOI NGUYEN
CLAIM #

Dear Mr. Brooks:

When we first spoke about this matter several weeks ago, I was advised that there was going to be an order of payment to Mr. Nguyen for lost wages in an amount slightly above \$2,000. When we checked with you some time later you advised that your supervisor, P. Kobylarz and someone else in authority above him were holding back the award because there was a question that Mr. Nguyen may have previously been self employed. Both my assistant and I have advised your office via telephone message that Mr. Nguyen was not self employed and the income information provided to your office weeks ago is correct. I further indicated that Mr. Nguyen would sign an affidavit attesting to his income and whatever facts your office required in order to facilitate payment. The last message received from you was the same as the last several; *i.e.*, you are waiting for your superiors to make a decision. Furthermore, your office has been contacted by the victim's nurse Judy Casteel and his social worker Heidi Schleffer literally pleading with your office to help this family.

As you know, the victim is a little 18 month boy who was permanently disabled when two days after Christmas on December 27, 2007, his babysitter picked him up and threw him against the wall. Khiem suffered permanent traumatic brain injury. He has a shunt in his skull. He is blind. He must be fed through a tube in his stomach. And he is as

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innocent a victim as your office will ever see. The offender is presently in jail awaiting indictment and trial.

Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen have both worked at a nail salon as employees. When Khiem was assaulted, Mr. Nguyen had to leave his job because the child required round the clock care. The two nurses who also took care of Khiem had to leave because Medicaid Social services could no longer pay for them. Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen had to leave their apartment in Mt. Olive Township because they could not afford it. They are presently staying with his cousin in Stanhope at a cost \$500/month. Nguyen earns between \$500 and \$800/month, and the family also receives approximately \$600/month from SSI.

This is the type of claim that should, and in the past, would have been addressed immediately by your office. There are no reasonable or justifiable excuses for this delay in helping these innocent victims. I do not criticize you personally because you have been courteous.

I enclose several photos of Khiem for your supervisors to review. This family is desperately in need of victim assistance. I again reiterate my prior conversations and messages to you; I will provide to you whatever information your office may request in order for you to provide assistance to this family.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,

Richard D. Pompelio
Executive Director

Enclosures
RDP/ajp