

# FAQs About the Backpage Remission Process for Human Trafficking Survivors

*This resource is intended for survivors who think they may qualify for compensation through the Backpage Remission. Due to the quickly changing legal landscape, we understand some survivors may have concerns about submitting a petition and sharing information with the federal government. The answers to the questions below are intended to provide survivors with information to make an informed decision for themselves, and connect them with available resources. The information provided below is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice.*

## **What is the Backpage/CityXGuide Remission?**

The owners of Backpage and CityXGuide were found guilty of conspiring to facilitate unlawful commercial sex using a facility in interstate or foreign commerce and money laundering. The federal government seized \$215 million from the defendants and is making the money available to survivors of trafficking whose exploitation was related to advertisements on Backpage between January 1, 2004, to April 6, 2018, or CityXGuide between April 8, 2018, to June 19, 2020.

**Learn more about the Remission [here](#). The deadline to file a petition has been extended to March 31, 2026.**

## **What if I advertised sex work services on Backpage/CityXGuide and lost money when the websites were shut down?**

The Backpage Remission is intended for individuals who were trafficked. To submit a claim, you will have to attest that you were a victim of sex trafficking via Backpage or CityXGuide.

## ***Do I need an attorney to submit a petition?***

No, you do not need an attorney to submit a petition, but attorneys can provide assistance in navigating the process and identifying documentation that can support your claim.

## ***If I decide to work with an attorney, what should I know?***

Attorneys may charge a fee or collect a portion of the funds that are paid out to you by the Remission. However, pro bono (no cost) services are available. The [Backpage Survivor Remission Network](#) is connecting survivors with pro bono attorneys, but legal assistance may be limited. If you already have an attorney assisting you in other matters, we recommend first talking to them about your options.

Some attorneys are advertising their petition assistance services online. If you decide to reach out to an attorney you are unfamiliar with, we recommend verifying the firm is legitimate and reviewing the fee agreement before signing anything. It is important to [verify a law firm is legitimate](#) before signing any documents or sending any payments.

## ***What information will be collected in the petition?***

The petition requests identifying information like your name, address, Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, date of birth, and contact information. You will also have to attest that you were a victim of sex trafficking via Backpage or CityXGuide.

For verification of your claim, the petition requests information about the names and aliases of traffickers, date ranges of advertisements, aliases you used, and contact information potentially used in advertisements. You may not have all of this information and can submit a petition even if some of the information is not available.

You will also need to include documentation of financial losses. Losses like medical expenses, behavioral health expenses, and lost wages are eligible for submission.

## ***Will my information be shared with anyone?***

Epiq was hired by the Department of Justice as the Remission administrator to process petitions, process payments, and answer questions about the Remission. The information provided in the petition is protected by federal laws regarding confidentiality and will not be made publicly available. The petition information can be shared within government agencies, and will be shared with the US Department of Justice Money Laundering, Narcotics and Forfeiture Section, which has the authority to grant petitions for this Remission. Typically, this information is not shared with other federal agencies, but agency information-sharing policies have changed dramatically this year and may continue to evolve in the future. This may include sharing information with other DOJ offices or even with other agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security. If you have concerns about information sharing, we recommend that you ask the claims administrator and discuss this with your attorney (if you have one).

## ***How much money will I get?***

At this time, it is not possible to predict the amount of money each person with an approved claim will receive. It will likely depend on a combination of factors, including:

- How many petitions are submitted (it is likely that there will be more claims than funds available)
- How well you are able to document your experience as a sex trafficking victim on Backpage and/or CityXGuide (if you have law enforcement documentation, you were identified as a victim by a prosecutor, or other documentation of your victimization)
- How well you are able to document your losses and the amount of losses that you can document (if there are a large number of applicants, the administrator may only pay out a percentage of the documented losses)

## ***How will payments be issued?***

At this time, the administrator does not have information about how payments will be issued. Make sure you include accurate contact information and update the administrator if your contact information changes before the petition decisions are made. If your claim is approved, the administrator will reach out to provide options for payment.

## **Important Resources**

### **LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REMISSION**

[WWW.BACKPAGEREMISSION.COM](http://WWW.BACKPAGEREMISSION.COM)

### **CONTACT THE REMISSION ADMINISTRATOR**

[/WWW.BACKPAGEREMISSION.COM/EN/HOME/CONTACT](http://WWW.BACKPAGEREMISSION.COM/EN/HOME/CONTACT)

### **REQUEST PRO BONO LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

[WWW.BACKPAGEREMISSIONNETWORK.ORG](http://WWW.BACKPAGEREMISSIONNETWORK.ORG)

### **OBTÉN MÁS INFORMACIÓN SOBRE LA REMISSIÓN EN ESPAÑOL**

[WWW.BACKPAGEREMISSION.COM/ES](http://WWW.BACKPAGEREMISSION.COM/ES)