

## PENSION PAYMENTS ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRIAN VICTIMS' WELFARE ACT

As of 2002 in order to obtain pension payments according to the Austrian Victims' Welfare Act the applicant is no longer required to hold the Austrian citizenship at the time of application.

### **? Who is eligible?**

Pension payments for victims who

- were citizens of the Federal Republic of Austria on March 13, 1938
- or had been resident in Austria for an uninterrupted period of some 10 years prior to March 13, 1938
- at least 6 months severe confinement (e.g. concentration camp, forced labour camp etc.) or
- at least 1 year of captivity or arrest or
- evidence of health damage related to persecution of at least 50% of the reduction in earning capacity

### **? What pension payments are available?**

Victim's pension benefits: claim and amount are related to the extent of health damage related to persecution (regardless of earnings).

Causality between health damage and persecution has to be evidenced by medical examination.

Victims of National Socialism, interned in a concentration camp for 6 months or confined or arrested for 1 year, as of the age of 75 receive upon application victims' pension benefits equivalent to 30% of the reduction in earning capacity, also without medical procedure.

Support benefits: claims may be filed in case of meagre income (earnings-related).

Surviving dependants' pensions: dependants of recipients of victims' pension benefits are eligible.

Dependants may also file a claim on a surviving dependants' pension in case their deceased spouses did not receive victims' pension benefits, although they had been eligible.

### **Victims' pension benefits – Claim for worsening**

In case of worsening of the health damage related to persecution a claim on increase of the victims' pension benefits may be filed. The worsening of the health damage has to be satisfied by the presentation of a medical certificate.

## **?** How to apply for victims' pension benefits?

By sending an informal application to the Victims' Welfare Department of the Regional Government of Vienna or to the competent Austrian consulate.

It is important to describe in detail the persecution and to indicate the health damages caused by the persecution. If possible, please attach medical certificates.

### **NOTE**

Please send informal application as soon as possible and file relevant documents later!

For further information and applications please contact:

Amt der Wiener Landesregierung  
Magistratsabteilung 40 -  
Soziales, Sozial- und Gesundheitsrecht,  
Referat Opferfürsorge

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