

9/11

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Important 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Alert: New “Look Back” Deadline Extends All “Forgotten” VCF Claims

NEW VCF REGISTRATION DEADLINES

On July 29, 2019, the President signed into law the Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act (“VCF Permanent Authorization Act”), which extended the VCF claim filing deadline. The Special Master has interpreted the Permanent Authorization Act to allow a change to the deadline by which an individual must register with the VCF.

Under the new policy, all claims will be considered timely if registered within two years of July 29, 2019, the date the VCF became permanent. This means every claim currently on file with the VCF is timely, and every future claim that is filed prior to July 29, 2021, will be timely. The new policy applies retroactively to all claims.

This change addresses concerns about claimants who missed prior deadlines because they did not know that the VCF existed or was open to them, did not know that their condition (or the death of their loved one) was related to 9/11 exposure, or did not realize that they were eligible to file a VCF claim or that the VCF would be in place beyond the previous 2020 end date. Additional details about registration and claim filing deadlines can be found [here](#).

Statemet From 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Website <https://www.vcf.gov/>

New York, NY- [Turley, Hansen & Rosasco, LLP](#), a leading 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Specialty Law Firm, has issued the following statement in response to the news that the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) has just **extended the wrongful death deadline to July 29, 2021 for all families who lost loved ones exposed to the 9/11 toxins – the 9/11 first responders and people who worked, lived, or went to school in lower Manhattan.** This recent decision made **in December** is outlined in red on the 9/11 VCF website front page and was recently announced in a public conference call in December and recently published document Link- <https://www.vcf.gov/pdf/LawFirmUpdateDec2019.pdf>.

You can also verify this public information with the DOJ [Public Affairs Office](#) 202-514-2007 www.justice.gov/media

This effectively gives a limited time “look back” period for people to re-apply who previously missed the old two-year deadline to apply because they may not have known that their illnesses were 9/11 related or that the VCF applied to everyone that lived, worked and went to school in the area below Canal Street.

“We welcome this VCF policy change that reopens the right to 9/11 victim compensation to the families of deceased responders and downtown workers, residents and students who died any time since 2002. This is great news that will help many families whose 9/11 deceased compensation claims were previously denied,” said Attorney Troy Rosasco and Daniel Hansen in a joint statement.

Previously, the VCF required that the families of people who died from a 9/11-related illness to register their claim within two years from the date of death. The harsh old “two years from the date of death” deadline caused the denial of many VCF wrongful death claims for not meeting the two-year deadline. In fact, **only 2% of eligible families have filed for this benefit.**

9/11 VCF Advocate Phil Alvarez, the brother of the late Lou Alvarez whose testimony last year helped extend the VCF, also works with Turley, Hansen & Rosasco as Outreach and Education Director.

“We are applauding this because it allows some of these families who were suffering because they lost a loved one to now be able to file a death claim with the VCF and get compensated for the death of a loved one,” said Alvarez. “I believe it will be a great source of relief to a lot of families who are suffering with either an illness or a death in the family.”

According to a recent report from the [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO), about 410,000 people were exposed to the 9/11 related toxic dust released into the air in lower Manhattan in the area surrounding the World Trade Center site. An estimated 67,000 of those 410,000 exposed people have died since 2001 ([CBO report](#) page 9).

Out of the 67,000 exposed people who have died in that time, only 1,173 families have filed wrongful death claims (which include funeral and burial expense reimbursement claims) with the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (less than 2% of all 9/11 exposed people who have died since 2001), according to a recently released [report](#) by the VCF Special Master.

“It's amazing that after so many years and so much news coverage that these families, many who struggle due to the loss, still don't know their absolute right to receive financial support from the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund,” said Daniel Hansen.

The new rule change gives the families of all 9/11 first responders or downtown workers, residents, and students who died more than two years ago (from 2002 until the present) the chance to receive an award from the VCF. The VCF is also reviewing past submitted wrongful death claims and make awards to the families whose wrongful death claims were denied due to missing the old two-year deadline.

“We have MANY clients that missed this deadline, because they did not know that a cancer (or other death causing disease) was 9/11 related, did not know that the VCF applies to non-first responders (survivors — students, downtown workers and residents) or were wholly unaware of the VCF program until the recent news — when it was too late,” said Hansen. “Fewer than 1,200 families have applied for compensation from the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund. Thousands of families don't know that they may qualify for 100% reimbursement or all out-of-pocket burial/memorial expenses **plus** a substantial cash award.”

Phil Alvarez is doubling his efforts to make people aware of this new policy change. He is doing public speaking and outreach to all who may be impacted.

“Exposure to sickness can take 20 years,” said Alvarez. “We’re going to be seeing that. This isn’t stopping, it’s going to continue, and we really need to get the word out to folks.”

Phil Alvarez and 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Experts from Turley, Hansen & Rosasco are available for quotes on the phone and on camera interviews to talk about this dramatic new change in 9/11 VCF Policy and the significance to families of those effected.

For more information go to <https://www.911cancerclaim.com/911-zadroga-reauthorization-act-of-2015/9-11-funeral-expense-compensation/>

About Turley, Hansen & Rosasco

DANIEL J. HANSEN is a top 9/11 lawyer representing clients before the federal September 11th Victims Compensation Fund. Dan is a founding partner of the 9/11 Law Firm of Turley, Hansen & Rosasco, LLP. Dan has been selected by his peers as a “Super Lawyer” for 2018, as well as in prior years, for his top-rated skills in mass tort and personal injury claims. Dan is rated 10/10 by the national attorney rating service Avvo for mass torts such as the 9/11 attacks. His fierce advocacy and unrelenting dedication has \$200 million in awards for his 9/11 clients from the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund. Dan has over 26 years of litigation experience earned in the trenches of the New York federal and state courts and currently represents over 2500 clients before the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

Dan has appeared on Fox News, CBS, CNN and the BBC explaining the benefits available to cancer victims from the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund and the benefits of victims and their families to hiring a 9/11 lawyer.

TROY G. ROSASCO is one of the leading 9/11 attorneys in the nation. Troy was recently selected by his peers as a 2018 “Super Lawyer.” He is a founding partner of Turley, Hansen & Rosasco, LLP. Troy has been representing 9/11 victims and their families since October 2001. An Adjunct Professor of Law at St. John’s University School of Law, Troy has taught and lectured other lawyers, written articles for publication and has become the “go to” 9/11 lawyer when victims and other lawyers are seeking a 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund representative.

Troy is an elected Fellow in the national College of Workers’ Compensation Lawyers, a member of the national Workplace Injury Litigation Group (WILG), a former member of the Board of Directors of the National Organization of Social Security Claimant Representatives (NOSSCR), a former Vice- Chairman of the New York Workers’ Compensation Alliance, a former member of the Board of Directors of the New York Injured Workers’ Bar Association, a member of the Nassau County Bar Association Attorney Grievance Committee, and was the 2017 – 2018 Chair of the Suffolk County Workers’ Compensation and Social Security disability law Committee. In addition to being a 9/11 lawyer, Troy is a proud veteran of the United States Air Force.

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