

(1) Conceal the existence of a contract described in subsection (b) of this section; or

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, make or receive payments under a contract described in subsection (b) of this section.

(e) (1) (i) The Attorney General shall deposit any funds received under this section in an interest bearing escrow account.

(ii) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection and subsection (f) of this section, the Attorney General shall hold funds for the benefit of and payable to the victim, as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) (i) If, within 5 years of the establishment of the escrow account, the victim brings or has a pending civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction or has recovered a money judgment for damages against the defendant or has been awarded restitution, the Attorney General shall pay, subject to the priority of claims described in this section, to the victim funds from the escrow account to the extent of the money judgment or the amount of restitution. Any funds then remaining in the escrow account shall be paid over as provided in this section. Money may not be paid under this subparagraph until the defendant has been found guilty, has pleaded nolo contendere, has been placed on probation before judgment, OR has been found not criminally responsible for criminal conduct under § 12-108 of the Health – General Article[, or has voluntarily and intelligently admitted to the commission of a crime for which the defendant is not prosecuted].

(ii) At least once every 6 months for 5 years from the date the Attorney General receives such moneys or other consideration, the Attorney General shall publish a legal notice in newspapers of general circulation in the county where the crime was committed and in counties contiguous to that county that advises the victims that escrow moneys are available to satisfy money judgments under this section. The Attorney General may provide for additional notice as the Attorney General deems necessary.

(3) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, the Attorney General shall pay over to the defendant all of the funds from the escrow account if:

(i) The charges against the defendant are dismissed or if nolle prosequi is entered;

(ii) The defendant is acquitted;

(iii) The defendant is found to be incompetent to stand trial under § 12-105 of the Health – General Article and at least 5 years have elapsed from that finding without a further disposition of the charge; or

(iv) The charges against the defendant are placed on the stet docket and a period of at least 3 years have elapsed.