

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or statute of limitations to the contrary, including the statute of limitations for a wrongful death action, a victim shall bring a civil action against a defendant within 5 years after any escrow account has been established by the Attorney General.

(h) Any action taken by a defendant, including an execution of a power of attorney, creation of corporate entities, or designation of the defendant's interest, to defeat the purpose of this section shall be void as against public policy.

(i) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, claims on moneys in the escrow account shall have the following priorities:

(i) Payments ordered by the Attorney General or a court under subsection (f) of this section;

(ii) Subrogation claims of the State under Article 26A of the Code;

(iii) A court order of restitution under Article 27, § 640 of the Code;

(iv) A civil judgment of a victim of the crime; and

(v) A civil judgment of a person, other than a victim of the crime, arising out of the crime.

(2) The Attorney General may bring an action of interpleader or an action for declaratory judgment when the Attorney General is unable to determine the priority of claims and the proper disposition of the escrow account.

(j) (1) There is established a Maryland Victims of Crime Fund Account in the General Fund of the State.

(2) The Fund is a special continuing, nonlapsing fund which is not subject to § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(3) The treasurer shall separately hold, and the Comptroller shall account for, the Fund.

(4) The Fund shall be invested and reinvested in the same manner as other State funds.

(5) Any investment earnings shall be retained to the credit of the Fund.

(6) The Fund shall be subject to an audit by the division of audits as provided for in § 2-1215 of the State Government Article.

(7) Disbursements from the fund shall supplement and may not be a substitute for any state, local government, or other funds for assistance to crime victims or witnesses existing as of July 1, 1991.

(8) This section may not be construed to prohibit the Fund from receiving funds from any other source.