

DISTRICT ATTORNEY BUREAU OF VICTIM SERVICES

“Helping Victims Become Survivors”



Shari Farmer, Field Deputy

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BUREAU OF VICTIM SERVICES

TWO DIVISIONS TO ASSIST VICTIMS

- **Direct Services**

Advocates provide assistance to crime victims in courthouses and law enforcement stations throughout Los Angeles County



- **Claims Verification Unit**
Victim Compensation Assistance

BUREAU OF VICTIM SERVICES

Victim Centers Direct Service



SPECIALIZED ADVOCACY



- **Elder Abuse Advocacy and Outreach Program**
- **Family Violence**
- **Lifer Unit**
- **Juvenile Advocacy Services**
- **Realignment Victims Services Program**
- **Sex Crimes**
- **Special Emphasis Advocacy/Underserved Victim Pgm.**
- **Stalking and Threat Assessment**

“How can we assist a crime victim and their family?”



MANDATORY VICTIM SERVICES

Penal Code § 13835.5

- **Crisis Intervention**
- **Emergency Assistance**
- **Resource & Referral Counseling**
- **Victim Compensation Assistance**
- **Orientation to the Criminal Justice System**
- **Court Escort/Support**
- **Case Status/Disposition Information**
- **Return of Property / Restitution Assistance**

Crisis Intervention

- Personal or telephone response to the immediate emotional and physical needs of the crime victim
- Immediate referral of the victim to appropriate local service agencies



Emergency Assistance

Assist victim with immediate material needs such as temporary shelter, food, transportation, clothing, and medical care including prescription medicine, eyeglasses or dentures



Resource and Referral Counseling

Referral to the appropriate individual or agency for services not provided directly by the program



Victim Compensation Assistance



Assist victims or their families with filing an application for financial losses such as compensation for **medical expenses, mental health counseling, loss of income, funeral/burial costs, crime scene clean up, and job rehabilitation**

Orientation to the Criminal Justice System



- **Provide victims/witnesses with verbal information on the location, procedures and functioning of the criminal justice system**
- **Inform victims/witnesses what they should expect in terms of testifying (direct and cross-examination) and possible court delays**

Court Escort/Support



- **Provide information and/or support to the victim or witness during court appearances**
- **Accompany the victim or witness to the courtroom and remain during their court appearance**

Case Status / Disposition Information

- **Keep victims and witnesses apprised of significant developments and the disposition of the case in which they are involved**
- **Assist victims with the preparation of a written victim impact statement to the probation department, court and parole board and/or present the impact statement at the time of sentencing or parole hearing**

Return of Property and Restitution

- **Assist victim with contacting law enforcement agency when property is no longer needed in the prosecution of a case**
- **Assist victims in determining what restitution is owed to them**
- **DA's office also has a Restitution Enhancement Program (REP) that also assists victims in obtaining restitution**

OPTIONAL VICTIM SERVICES

Penal Code § 13835.5

- **Creditor/Employer Intervention**
- **Restitution Information & Referral**
- **Notification Court Calendar Changes**
- **Funeral Arrangement Assistance**
- **Temporary Restraining Order Information**
- **Witness Protection Assistance/Relocation**

Payment for Victims' Losses from Two Sources



Compensation

Victim
Compensation
Fund

State Restitution Fund

Restitution Order
from Convicted
Defendant

Victims Eligible for Compensation

- Victim must cooperate with law enforcement and prosecutors
- Victim cannot have participated in the crime, nor be on probation or parole
- **Victim must apply within three years.**
- Immigration status is not a factor.

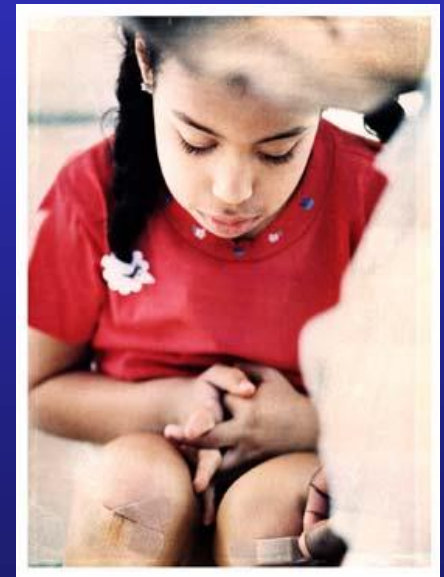
Victims Eligible for Compensation

- **Direct Victim**
- **Derivative Victims – family and household members, certain percipient witness to crime, primary caretaker of a victim.**



Categories Generally Eligible for Compensation

- Person who is physically injured or threatened with physical injury as a result of a crime
- Eligible family member or other specified person who were legally dependent on the victim
- Parent, sibling, spouse, or child of the victim
- Family member of the victim who witnessed the crime



Categories Generally Eligible for Compensation

- **Minor who witnesses a crime of domestic violence or who resides in a home where domestic violence occurs**
- **Anyone who pays or assumes legal liability for a deceased victim's medical, funeral, or burial expenses or anyone who pays for crime scene clean up**



Compensation Criteria

- Crime caused physical injury or threat of injury
- Property loss not covered
- Victim Compensation Fund is payer of last resort
(e.g. Victim must first use own medical insurance)

Volunteers / Interns

- Assist with clerical support
- Introduce program to victims
- Assess the victim's needs
- Provide court support
- Arrange translation
- Assist child, elderly and victims with disabilities as needed.
- Answer questions



District Attorney Bureau of Victim Services

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