

# DISTRICT ATTORNEY BUREAU OF VICTIM SERVICES

**"Helping Victims Become Survivors"**



**Shari Farmer, Field Deputy**

Jackie Lacey  
District Attorney

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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

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## BUREAU OF VICTIM SERVICES Victim Centers Direct Service



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## SPECIALIZED ADVOCACY

- Elder Abuse Advocacy and Outreach Program
- Family Violence
- Hate and Target Crimes
- K9 Unit
- Lifer and Post-Conviction Proceedings
- Juvenile Advocacy Services
- Realignment Victims Services Program
- Sex Crimes
- Special Emphasis Advocacy/Underserved Victim Pgm.
- Stalking and Threat Assessment



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



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## 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

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## 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



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## Emergency Assistance

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



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## Resource and Referral Counseling

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



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## 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**

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## Payment for Victims' Losses from Two Sources



### Compensation

Victim  
Compensation  
Fund

### State Restitution Fund

Restitution Order  
from Convicted  
Defendant

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## 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.

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## Victims Eligible for Compensation

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



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## 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



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## 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



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## 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)

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## 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

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### District Attorney Bureau of Victim Services

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3204 Rosemead Blvd., Ste. 200  
El Monte, California 91731

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