

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



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DISTRICT ATTORNEY

What Happens When Abuse Is Reported

When an act or threat of domestic violence occurs, victims or witnesses should immediately call 911 or their local police for assistance. Any evidence of the violence or threat should be kept for the police.

The police will investigate allegations of abuse, obtain medical aid for the victim, assist the victim in obtaining an Emergency Protective Order, and help the victim and children leave with their personal belongings.

The police also may arrest the accused person. The case then will be presented to the District Attorney's Office or local city attorney's office for prosecution consideration.

Court Protective Orders

Courts may issue protective orders, also known as restraining orders, directing an accused person to stop harassing and to "keep away" from a victim and/or the victim's children. These orders do not guarantee the accused person will stop the abuse, but they do allow law enforcement to take action to remove the person. The types of protective orders include:

Emergency Protective Order (EPO)

When the police are called to the scene of a domestic violence incident, they may call a judge on a 24-hour basis and obtain an emergency protective order for the victim by telephone.

Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) or Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO)

A victim may go on their own to a courthouse and request a civil protective order at no cost. Many courts have staff members available to help with the filing process. Victims of domestic violence also may obtain domestic violence protective orders in Family Court.

For help and instructions on obtaining a domestic violence restraining order, visit selfhelp.courts.ca.gov/restraining-orders.

Criminal Protective Order (CPO)

When a criminal case is filed, the court may, on its own motion or at the deputy district attorney's request, issue appropriate protective orders. Criminal orders have priority over any conflicting civil and dependency court orders.

Out-of-State Domestic Violence Protective Order

A victim entering California with a protective order issued by another state will be afforded protection here provided certain conditions are met. The victim must register the out-of-state order with the local superior court.

All domestic violence protective orders must be entered into the statewide California Restraining and Protective Order System (CARPOS). Law enforcement officers throughout the state may access the system to determine the existence of a protective order and enforce it. A restrained party can be arrested and criminally prosecuted for knowingly violating any domestic violence protective order.



Scan here to view this pamphlet online.



Helping Crime Victims Become Survivors

For Counseling Referrals



For Crisis Intervention



For Case Status Notification



For Emergency Assistance



For Restitution Assistance



For Court Escort



Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Bureau of Victim Services
da.lacounty.gov/victims

(800) 380-3811

Victim Services

The District Attorney's Bureau of Victim Services is available in courthouses and police stations throughout Los Angeles County. Victim services representatives provide assistance and resources to help keep victims and their children safe; and provide counseling referrals to address the trauma of domestic violence.

In addition to helping victims obtain restitution, victim services representatives provide crisis intervention services and necessary referrals to crime victims and their families; assist in requesting protective orders; guide crime victims through the court process; help arrange emergency shelter, food and clothing; and assist in filing for compensation through the California Victim Compensation Board.

Victims of violence or threats of violence may be eligible to receive compensation for qualifying losses and expenses related to the crime, such as loss of wages and relocation, medical and counseling expenses.

Address Confidentiality

Victims of domestic violence in California may qualify for an address confidentiality program called Safe at Home. It provides services that work best when used in conjunction with an overall safety plan. Victim services representatives from the District Attorney's Office can assist crime victims with Safe at Home enrollment. To contact the Bureau of Victim Services, call **(800) 380-3811**.

For eligibility requirements and additional information, visit sos.ca.gov/registries/safe-home/applicants.

Victims' Rights

California law protects crime survivors from possibly harmful actions by employers and property owners.

Employee Rights

Your employer cannot terminate or punish you for taking time off from work if you are a crime victim or attempting to get a restraining order from the court or other legal protection against your or your child's abuser. If your employer punishes you, you are entitled to be rehired and reimbursed for the money you lost. Your employer is required to keep any knowledge of your situation private.

If your employer has more than 25 employees, then they cannot punish you for seeking:

- Medical help for an injury caused by a crime
- Service from a domestic violence shelter or any other service that provides support for victims
- Mental health services for a crime
- Ways to ensure your safety, such as temporary or permanent relocation of where you live

Tenant Rights

You have the right to terminate a tenancy and reclaim your security deposit if you, a member of your household, or an immediate family member is the victim of a crime related to abuse. Your landlord also cannot terminate your lease or refuse to renew your lease because you or a household member was a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, or abuse of an elder or dependent adult.

For more information about victim rights, read the Marsy's Law pamphlet: da.lacounty.gov/marsys-law.

Information for Undocumented Victims and Survivors

Victims are not required to be in legal immigration status to request services. Under federal law, certain undocumented crime victims who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse are eligible to apply for the U nonimmigrant status visa (U Visa). For a list of local nonprofit agencies that assist victims with the U visa and T visa application process, please visit da.lacounty.gov/victims/uvisa/uvisa-tvisa-assistance-agencies.

Where To Find Help

National Domestic Violence Hotline
(800) 799-7233

Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Hotline
(800) 978-3600

Other resources:

** Spanish speaker available at these sites*

1736 Family Crisis Center, South Bay*
(310) 370-5902

Angel Step Inn*
(323) 780-4357

Center for the Pacific Asian Family, L.A.
(Asian languages available)
(800) 339-3940

Child & Family Center*
(661) 259-4357

Haven Hills, San Fernando Valley*
(818) 887-6589

Jewish Family Service LA*
(Farsi/Hebrew/Russian/Spanish available)
(323) 681-2626 / (818) 505-0900

House of Ruth, Pomona/Claremont*
(877) 988-5559

Jenesse Center, South L.A.*
(800) 479-7328

L.A. LGBT Center, Los Angeles
(323) 860-5806

Rainbow Services, San Pedro*
(310) 547-9343

Sojourn, Santa Monica*
(310) 264-6644

Su Casa*
(562) 402-4888

Valley Oasis, Antelope Valley*
(661) 945-6736

Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter, Whittier*
(562) 945-3939

WomenShelter of Long Beach*
(562) 437-4663

YWCA Glendale & Pasadena
(Armenian/Spanish available)
(888) 999-7511

YWCA San Gabriel Valley*
(626) 967-0658

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