

Marsy's Law Protects and Serves Crime Victims in California

Marsy's Law gives important rights to crime victims who were hurt physically, emotionally, or financially because of a crime (or attempted crime).

To qualify as a victim of crime under Marsy's Law, you must be the:

- Direct victim,
- Close family member,*
- Guardian, or
- Your legal representative.

**Close family members include: spouse, parents, children, brothers and sisters*

You can read the text of Marsy's Law at: 1800victims.org

About Us

The Victims of Crime Resource Center is located on the Pacific McGeorge School of Law campus in Sacramento, California. We educate victims and their families, victim service providers and other victim advocates on:

- Victims' legal rights,
- Victims compensation,
- Restitution,
- Civil suits, and
- Additional rights of domestic violence and abuse victims (including elders, children, and people with disabilities).

We also offer:

- Technical assistance and legal research to victim service providers, and
- Free "Know Your Rights" presentations to community groups.

We operate **1-800-VICTIMS** – the statewide, toll-free hotline that gives confidential information and referrals to victims, their families, victim service providers, and victim advocates. The hotline is staffed by McGeorge law students and supervised by lawyers.

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1-800-VICTIMS (842-8467)
www.1800victims.org

A Guide to Services for Crime Victims in California



Victims
of Crime
Resource
Center

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Victim/Witness Assistance Centers

The Victim/Witness Assistance Centers help victims get services, ask for compensation, and understand their rights. Your Center can also guide you through the criminal justice system.

Each county has its own center. To find the Center in your county,

Visit: <http://vcgcb.ca.gov>

Call: **1-800-VICTIMS**

The Centers can help you in many ways.

Right after the crime, they will:

- Make sure you are offered counseling, emotional support, and information about the court process
- Help you get emergency housing, food, and clothing, if you need it

Later they will:

- Connect you with the resources and referrals you need
- Go with you to court and court-related appointments
- Help you apply for reimbursement for expenses related to the crime

They will also:

- Help you ask for a restraining order if you need protection
- Make sure you are notified about each step of the criminal justice process, and
- Help you prepare for each step of the process.

Your Victim/Witness Center will tell you more about these other programs:

California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP)

CalVCP can reimburse you for expenses caused by the crime (except expenses covered by insurance or other programs).

Visit: www.vcgcb.ca.gov/victims/

Call: **1-800-777-9229**

California Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation

If the offender was sentenced to the California Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation, you have the right to:

- Get money (restitution) to pay for your losses
- Be told about the offender's status and any parole hearings
- Ask the Board of Parole Hearings to order special parole conditions

Visit: www.cdcr.ca.gov/Victim_Services/index.html, or

Call: **1-877-256-6877**

Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE)

This service gives you updated and reliable information 24-7 about your case and the offender's custody status.

Visit: www.vinelink.com

Call: **1-877-411-5588**

Safe-at-Home

This Secretary of State program protects victims of domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault by giving them a free P.O. box and mail forwarding service.

Visit: www.sos.ca.gov/safeathome/

Call: **1-877-322-5227**

Victims' Services Unit

The Victims' Services Unit is at the California Attorney General's office. They notify victims and their families about the status of cases (including appeals) the Attorney General's office is handling.

Visit: <http://oag.ca.gov/victimservices>

Call: **1-877-433-9069**