

Victim Assistance

Victim Services is a division of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, designed to ensure victims are informed and supported throughout the criminal justice process. Victim Service advocates work closely with prosecutors and are specially trained to help children, elders, disabled persons, and violent crime victims. Services are available in English and Spanish.

Victims' Rights in California

As a victim of a crime, or a family member of a victim, you have many rights designed to assure that you and your interests are protected before, during and after the court case ends. Some of these rights are:

- **To be treated with fairness, respect and dignity,** in addition to being free from intimidation or harassment throughout the criminal justice process
- **To be informed about the status of your case,** including investigation, arrest and prosecution of the suspect(s)
- **To have your name, which appears on court paperwork, withheld from public disclosure** if you are a victim of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking or a hate crime
- **To be assisted if called as a witness**
- **To be granted court orders barring the defendant from further harming or harassing you**



- **To be notified, when and if, the suspect/defendant in your case is released from custody**

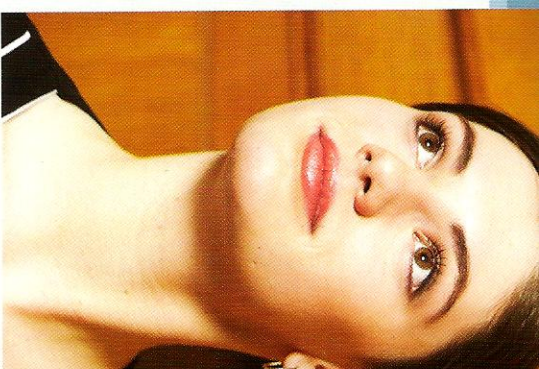
- **To attend all court proceedings and, if you choose, be accompanied by a victim services advocate or other support person**

- **To be informed of and attend sentencing proceedings** and tell the court about the crime's impact on you and your family

- **To have the court order restitution** for your crime-related losses

- **To be notified of all parole hearings** and to provide information for consideration before a decision is made to release the convict

- **To be notified of the convict's release or escape** from prison or his/her death



California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP)

In Riverside County, an important component of providing help to victims of crime is the Claims Verification Unit. The Claims team will work diligently to process your CalVCP application.

Important facts about this program:

CalVCP can help pay crime-related expenses when there is no other source of reimbursement. Victims of crime who have been injured or have been threatened with injury may be eligible for help.

- **The victim must cooperate** with law enforcement and prosecution of the criminal case
- **The victim cannot have knowingly or willingly participated in the crime**

- **The program may assist with costs** such as medical and dental treatment, mental health services, funeral and burial expenses, home security, residential crime scene cleanup and emergency relocation

- **Both the victim and their family members or other dependents may be eligible**

- **If a person is disabled** as a result of the crime, CalVCP also assists with wage loss, dependent support loss, job retraining and home or vehicle modifications

- **The program can help pay moving expenses** such as first and last month's rent, deposits and temporary lodging - if a victim needs to relocate for their own safety or emotional well-being

- **Minors who suffer emotional injuries** as a result of witnessing a violent crime may be eligible for mental health counseling. California law provides this eligibility for witnesses under age 18 even if the witness is unrelated to the crime victim. To qualify, the minor witness must have been in close proximity to the crime

- **In most cases, the program does not cover property losses**

For more information on eligibility requirements or assistance with applying for the program, contact the Division of Victim Services to speak with an advocate.

