

Compassion. Support. Advocacy.

You are not alone.

The San Mateo County District Attorney's Office Victim Services Division has supported victims of crime and their families since 1975. Our advocates provide compassionate, trauma-informed services designed to help individuals navigate the aftermath of crime with dignity and confidence.

We assist victims by:

-  Explaining the criminal justice process
-  Helping protect and enforce victims' rights
-  Connecting victims with community resources
-  Providing emotional support and crisis intervention
-  Assisting with applications for financial assistance through the California Victim Compensation Board

Our services are confidential, free of charge, and available to every eligible victim of crime.



**SAN MATEO COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION**

Contact Us VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION



Redwood City
500 County Center, 3rd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063



San Mateo
222 Paul Scannell Drive, 2nd Floor
San Mateo, CA 94402



South San Francisco
1050 Mission Road
South San Francisco, CA 94080



Main Office (650) 599-7479



victimservices@smcgov.org



da.smcgov.org

NEED IMMEDIATE HELP?



Adult Protective Services
1-800-675-8437
(Reports may be made confidentially.)



Long-Term Care Ombudsman
1-800-231-4204
(For individuals in long-term care facilities.)

Services are provided regardless of immigration status, race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, or ability to pay.

VOCA
Victims of Crime Act
Victim Assistance



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Support for Elder & Dependent Adult Victims

*A guide for victims,
families, and caregivers*



Stephen M. Wagstaffe
District Attorney

Lusero Arias
Victim Programs Services Manager

**SAN MATEO COUNTY
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What is elder or dependent adult abuse?



Elder abuse is the abuse of someone who is 65 years or older. Dependent adult abuse is the

abuse of someone who has certain mental or physical disabilities that keep him/her from being able to do normal activities or protect himself/herself.

Elder/dependent adult abuse may be any of the following things:



Physical/Sexual/Verbal abuse: may include slapping, kicking, pushing, beating, shaking, pinching or forcing sex acts without consent or the ability to consent. Verbal abuse may include statements including threats, name-calling, swearing, yelling, humiliating remarks and threats.



Neglect: may include the failure to provide clothing, medication, food or leaving a person unattended.



Financial(fiduciary)exploitation: may include theft, improper use of money or property, extortion, embezzlement, fraud or unauthorized use of funds.



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How can the Victim Services Division help?

A criminal act may have serious and lasting physical, economic and emotional impact on an elder or dependent adult. Our Elder/Dependent Adult Victim Advocate works with victims of crime and family members to provide services to address their needs and concerns including:



Applying for Victim Compensation: Our Victim Advocate can help victims complete an application for certain expenses related to the crime including medical and mental health expenses and relocation or home security upgrades.



Support and information throughout the court process: The court process can be confusing and overwhelming. Our Victim Advocate can explain the process, advocate for the victim throughout the process, and provide information about victim rights.



Information and referral to other agencies: Our Victim Advocate can find local agencies to meet the needs of elder/dependent adult victims.

Help for victims of elder or dependent adult abuse



If you are being hurt or abused

If you are being abused in any of these ways or if you feel afraid or controlled by a family member, spouse/partner or a caregiver it may help you to talk to a counselor. This may help you even if you do not want (or are not sure if you want) to ask for legal protections.



If you know someone who is being hurt or abused



Becoming a victim of crime can have a devastating impact on an older person or a dependent adult.

Many victims may feel that they have few options. They may feel unable to resolve or avoid abusive situations due to cognitive impediments, health or limited resources. Some persons may be unaware of the victimization or may refuse to report and testify against the person who has abused them.



If you suspect someone is being abused talk with him or her and then consider reporting your suspicions to authorities.