

CONTACT US



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Our Victim Advocates care for a victim's physical, emotional and financial needs after a crime. We do this by providing support, information, links to community resources and assisting in the enforcement of victim's rights.



Compassionate.
Here for you.
Every step of the way.



You Are Not Alone.

Experiencing domestic violence can feel overwhelming, but you do not have to face it alone. The San Mateo County District Attorney's Office Victim Services Division provides **free support** to survivors and their families. Our Victim Advocates are here to help you understand your rights, navigate the criminal justice system, develop a safety plan, and connect with resources that support your healing and recovery.



WE CAN HELP WITH



Safety Planning



Victims' Rights Advocacy



Criminal Justice Support



Crime Victim Compensation



Community Referrals



Emotional Support



OUR SERVICES ARE

- ✓ FREE
- ✓ AVAILABLE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

Stephen M. Wagstaffe

District Attorney

Lusero Arias

Victim Services Program Manager



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Victim Services Division

SUPPORT FOR Domestic Violence Survivors



Compassionate advocacy.
Trusted guidance.
Every step of the way.



Domestic Violence

Domestic violence, or intimate partner violence, includes acts committed by a current or former intimate partner that cause physical, sexual, emotional, or psychological harm. It can also include financial abuse and other controlling behaviors.

Victims and survivors may face many barriers when seeking help including fear, shame, lack of money or other resources, and social or family pressure.

You are not alone.

Help is available. Reach out today to speak with a Victim Advocate.



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Safety Planning

You may not be ready to leave an abusive relationship right now. However, it is important that you create a plan to protect yourself if you need to leave. The following actions can help you develop a safety plan.



At Home



- Identify ways to get out of your home safely, including potential exits such as windows, side or garage doors.



- Talk to your children about safe places to hide or where to go for help.



- Set up an emergency signal with trusted friends and neighbors that will alert them to call for help.



- Collect important papers (such as birth certificates, custody papers, bank account information, insurance cards and school records) in a safe location.



- Pack a bag with items that you will need such as clothes, medicines, keys and cash.



At Work



- Give the building security a photo of your abuser and a copy of your restraining order.



- Request an escort to your car.



- Vary the route that you take home.



You do not have control over your partner's abuse, you do have control about how to respond to protect yourself and/or your family. For assistance creating your safety plan, please **contact your Victim Advocate.**

Helpful Contacts



Jail Inmate Locator:

To sign up to be notified when an offender is released from jail, please visit www.vinelink.com or call 650.363.4424. You will need the offender's name, date of birth and/or inmate number.



Bay Area Legal Aid:

Legal assistance and Restraining Order Clinics
650.472.2666



Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA):

Domestic violence support and legal assistance
Crisis line: 800.300.1080
Email: info@corasupport.org



Legal Aid of San Mateo County:

Legal assistance and pro bono representation
650.588.0915



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Criminal Justice Process

After a domestic violence incident is reported to the police, the police will investigate and refer the case to the District Attorney's Office to review for criminal charges.



It is the responsibility of the District Attorney's Office, and not the victim, to decide if a criminal case will be filed.

For more information about the steps of the criminal justice process **contact your Victim Advocate.**



Criminal Protective Order

If the suspect will be charged criminally, he/she will have an arraignment to hear the charges. At the arraignment, you may request that the judge issue a Criminal Protective Order prohibiting the suspect from:

- ✓ Harassing, stalking, or threatening you
- ✓ Contacting you by any means
- ✓ Coming within a certain distance of you, your home, work, or school
- ✓ Possessing firearms



If a Criminal Protective Order is granted, the suspect can be arrested if he/she violates the order.

For more information, contact your Victim Advocate.