

San Francisco District Attorney Victim Services Fact Sheet

Under section 2A.70. DISTRICT ATTORNEY of the San Francisco Administrative Code, the District Attorney's Victim Services Division is designated "...the major provider of victim/witness assistance in the City and County of San Francisco."

As such the Division is required to carry out services as laid out in Penal Code § 13835.5. Per that section, the designated victim/witness assistance offices in every jurisdiction **shall** include **all** 14 of the following primary services:

- (1) Crisis intervention, providing timely and comprehensive responses to the individual needs of victims.
- (2) Emergency assistance, directly or indirectly providing food, housing, clothing, and, when necessary, cash.
- (3) Resource and referral counseling to agencies within the community which are appropriate to meet the victim's needs.
- (4) Direct counseling of the victim on problems resulting from the crime.
- (5) Assistance in the processing, filing, and verifying of claims filed by victims of crime pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 13959) of Part 4 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
- (6) Assistance in obtaining the return of a victim's property held as evidence by law enforcement agencies, if requested.
- (7) Orientation to the criminal justice system.
- (8) Court escort.
- (9) Presentations to and training of criminal justice system agencies.
- (10) Public presentations and publicity.
- (11) Monitoring appropriate court cases to keep victims and witnesses apprised of the progress and outcome of their case.
- (12) Notification to friends, relatives, and employers of the occurrence of the crime and the victim's condition, upon request of the victim.
- (13) Notification to the employer of the victim or witness, if requested by the victim or witness, informing the employer that the employee was a victim of or witness to a crime and asking the employer to minimize any loss of pay or other benefits which may result because of the crime or the employee's participation in the criminal justice system.

(14) Upon request of the victim, assisting in obtaining restitution for the victim, in ascertaining the victim's economic loss, and in providing the probation department, district attorney, and court with information relevant to his or her losses prior to the imposition of sentence.

The Penal Code section also sets forth optional services that may be provided.

In the Division, there are 36 funded advocates, supervisors, public service aides, and an administrative coordinator on our Advocacy Team. Each member of the Advocacy team is required to receive 20 hours of internal entry-level training and 40 hours of state-mandated training. As required by law, the division provides ALL mandated services above, when applicable. The Division handles all criminal cases referred to us, including cases that are charged, but also cases that are uncharged — i.e., if an arrest has not yet been made. This means the volume is high - while the services provided are often broad in scope. The Division also includes 7 additional staff dedicated to Victim Compensation Claims and 1 Restitution Specialist both funded by the California Victim Compensation Board (CALVCB).

Few understand how much work goes into one case. Failure to provide services to even one family victimized by crime can mean — failure to link those family members to trauma treatment, putting that family further into debt and poverty if we don't help them navigate through CALVCB, or keeping them in a dangerous situation if we don't discuss relocation and safety planning. It may also mean depriving them of their rights under Marsy's law. Most victims coming into our system are from low-income backgrounds, many are monolingual. Failure to assist perpetuates the cycle of violence and intergenerational trauma.

Our advocates, on average carry well over 100 cases at a time. Losing one of these positions means barring access to these necessary services for hundreds of families.

Victim Services Grants	2022-23 Proposed Budget	
Board of Control	\$	826,338
Criminal Restitution	\$	89,124
DA Elder Abuse	\$	200,000
XC Mass Casualty	\$	451,544
Underserved	\$	175,000
KI Innovative Response	\$	163,145
Victim Witness Assistance	\$	1,591,707
Vulnerable Victims	\$	202,545
Human Trafficking	\$	154,000
Victim Services Grants Subtotal:	\$	3,853,403
Victim Services GF Budget:	\$	3,376,213
Total Victim Services Budget	\$	7,229,616