

**san diego county district  
attorney  
victim assistance program**

**Services offered:**

- Crisis Intervention
- Mental Health Referrals
- Funeral And Burial Assistance
- Victims of Crime Compensation Claims
- Court Accompaniment
- Case Status and Disposition
- Victim Impact Statements
- Restitution Information
- Community Referrals
- Crime Prevention
- Notification of Family and Friends
- Follow-up Counseling

**district attorney office locations**

San Diego – Hall of Justice  
330 W. Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 531-4041

North County Branch – Vista Courthouse  
325 S. Melrose Dr., Ste. 5000, Vista, CA 92083  
(760) 806-4079

East County Branch – El Cajon Courthouse  
250 Main St., 5th Floor, El Cajon, CA 92020  
(619) 441-4538

South Bay Branch  
333 H St., Ste. 4000, Chula Vista, CA 91910  
(619) 498-5650

Juvenile Division – Juvenile Courthouse  
2851 Meadowlark Dr., San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 694-4254

**VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**



The San Diego County District Attorney  
Victim Assistance Program  
330 W. Broadway, Ste. 700  
San Diego, CA 92101  
**(619) 531-4041**



[www.sandiegoda.com](http://www.sandiegoda.com)

**helping to rebuild the  
lives of crime victims**



**San Diego County  
District Attorney**

### *A Message from your District Attorney:*

*For many years, victims of crime were overlooked, ignored and often reduced to the role of "witness" in the criminal justice system. Eventually, victim activist groups gave crime victims a new voice that was heard by policy makers and legislators.*

*In California, laws were passed giving victims basic rights and creating local agencies with special services designed to help crime victims. These new programs address the physical, emotional and financial injuries of crime and improve the criminal justice system's treatment of victims.*



*The San Diego County District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program reduces the trauma and insensitive treatment victims may experience following a crime. We are committed to helping crime victims and their families reorganize and reclaim their lives.*

*To help empower victims, we inform them of their legal rights and how to exercise those rights. And to reduce the trauma and suffering following a crime, our victim advocates offer a wide variety of support to victims, including linking them with other local and state services.*

*Through close partnerships with law enforcement and other community agencies and groups, we offer help – and hope to thousands of new crime victims each year.*

**Summer Stephan**  
District Attorney

### **What does the Victims Assistance Program do?**

The District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program offers comprehensive services to victims of all types of crimes. Our experienced Victim Advocates try to reduce the trauma and insensitivity that victims may experience following a crime.

### **What services are available?**

Victim Advocates help arrange and provide services to meet the material, emotional and informational needs of victims, thereby allowing for a faster and more complete recovery from the effects of crime. Services range from crisis intervention, referrals, counseling, claim submission, and court support. Advocates help crime victims navigate the legal system, directing them to agencies and organizations that offer assistance and emergency services.

### **Do I have to be involved in a court case to receive assistance?**

No. The Victims Assistance Program will provide help whether or not a suspect is apprehended and prosecuted.

### **Can I get help with hospital bills?**

A Victim Advocate can assist you with an application to the Victim Compensation Program, which may be able to assist you with crime-related medical expenses.

### **How much does it cost to obtain a Temporary Restraining Order for domestic violence victims?**

Temporary Restraining Orders for domestic violence victims are free. Advocates refer victims to the appropriate agency to obtain the order.

### **I was assaulted in my home and would like to move, but can't afford to. What can I do?**

The Victim Compensation Program may be able to assist you with relocation funds, if the necessary criteria are met. A Victim Advocate can help you with the application.

### **The person who stole a large amount of money**

### **from me is being prosecuted. How do I get that money back?**

At the sentencing, you can ask for an Order of Restitution. The judge may order the defendant to reimburse you for your economic losses associated with the crime.

### **As the victim, do I have the right to say anything at the sentencing hearing?**

Yes. You have the right to make a Victim Impact Statement at sentencing, telling the judge how the crime has affected you physically, emotionally, and financially.

### **How do I know if I qualify for assistance as a crime victim?**

If you have been a victim of a crime, it is important that you call your local law enforcement agency to report the incident. We encourage you to contact a victim advocate who can assess your case and explain the eligibility requirements.

