

Victim Services Unit

We are here to help you

Victimization can make you feel powerless. Our Victim Advocates and Compensation Specialists can help to reduce the trauma you and your loved ones may experience, and assist in your emotional and financial recovery.

Do you need a safety plan?

Safety planning is about taking steps to improve your safety and survival.

If you are experiencing abuse, or if you fear for your safety or the safety of your children, it is a good idea to create a safety plan. Each victim's situation is unique and so is every safety plan.

Over time, you can adjust your safety plan as your situation changes. Your Victim Advocate can help you to design a plan that works best for you and your family.

For support and more information, please contact the Victim Services Unit.

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 9-1-1

Local 24-hour hotlines

- Next Door Solutions (408) 279-2962
to Domestic Violence
- YWCA (800) 572-2782
Support Network
- Community Solutions (877) 363-7238
- Asian Americans for (408) 975-2739
Community Involvement (AACI)

It can be important to call a domestic violence agency before you leave. The numbers above are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Our commitment to excellence

The Victim Services Unit is committed to providing you with the highest level of service. Your experience with us matters. Please share your thoughts with us by completing a short survey. To request a survey, please contact our office:

Victim Services Unit
70 West Hedding Street, West Wing, Suite 130
San Jose, CA 95110
Phone: (408) 295-2656
Fax: (408) 289-5430
Email: victimservices@da.sccgov.org

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County of Santa Clara
Jeff Rosen, District Attorney

Victim Services Unit

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFETY PLANNING

**OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

70 West Hedding Street, West Wing
San Jose, CA 95110
Phone: (408) 295-2656
www.santaclara-da.org

Are you in a dangerous situation?

- Think about a safe place in your home where there are exits and no weapons.
- Try to stay in a room with a phone. When safe, call 9-1-1. If possible, keep a list of important numbers nearby. This list might include the police, Domestic Violence hotlines, friends and local shelters.
- If you are thinking of leaving your abuser, learn your local bus routes, and where the police station is located. Think of safe places to stay including with parents, friends, neighbors or a local shelter.

Are you getting ready to leave?

- Find someone you can trust. If possible, leave extra keys, money, copies of important documents, and clothing with that person before you leave.
- Keep your phone charged and on you at all times. Turn off automatic location notifications.
- If there are guns in your home, ask the police about how they can help to remove them safely.
- Put together a bag of things that you use every day. Hide it where it is easy for you to find.

What is a restraining order?

A restraining order is an order made by a judge that tells the abuser to stop the abuse, or face serious consequences.

There are two types of restraining orders available to victims of Domestic Violence, a **civil domestic violence protection order (DVTRO)** and a **criminal protective order (CPO)**.

You can get a civil domestic violence protection order from Family Court located at 201 North First St., San Jose, CA 95113 (408) 792-4200.

A criminal protective order can be issued by the criminal court when the defendant first appears in court.

Do you have a cell phone?

- When you leave, turn off GPS on all electronic devices. Pay attention to extra battery or data usage, which may indicate that software is running on your electronic device from another source.
- Do not use apps on your phone which might track your location.
- If you need to use technology, consider safer alternatives such as a computer in a public library, a trusted-friend's computer or a home phone.
- Change your passwords and security questions on all email and banking accounts.

Do you live alone?

- Upgrade your home security; change the locks on doors and windows, or install outdoor lights. The California Victim Compensation Program may be able to help pay for expenses associated with upgrading home security.
- Consider getting a P.O. Box or applying for the Safe at Home confidential address program.
- Change your phone number and screen your calls. Save and report all threatening messages to the police.

How can you protect your kids?

- Teach your children how to dial 9-1-1.
- Alert schools and childcare providers about any threats. Give them copies of a restraining order, a picture of the abuser and a vehicle description.
- Exchange children in a safe place, like a police department.
- Contact the District Attorney's Office at (408) 792-2921 to make a Good Cause Report within 10 days of leaving your abuser. This report tells law enforcement that you are leaving a domestic violence situation and not kidnapping the children.