

Help is Available for Victims and Witnesses to Crime

The Riverside County District Attorney's Division of Victim Services is committed to helping victims of and witnesses to crime and to vigorously protecting their rights. Our mission is to empower victims and witnesses of crime through advocacy and support services while promoting successful prosecution.

Victims of Crime Have the Right...

- to be treated with dignity and compassion
- to be protected from intimidation and harm
- to be informed about the juvenile justice system and the status of the case
- to be informed of social services and resources available in the community
- to have help in dealing with the system and be accompanied to court for support
- to have their opinions considered at the disposition of the juvenile case

Victim of Crime Compensation Program

Under California law, qualifying victims of crime may receive financial assistance for losses resulting from the crime. The program, administered by California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, may cover these losses:

- medical/dental
- mental health counseling
- wage/income loss /loss of support
- relocation assistance
- funeral/burial assistance
- crime-scene clean-up assistance

Program Services Available

(California Penal Code 13835.5)

Mandatory Services

- crisis intervention
- emergency assistance
- community resources and referrals
- follow-up counseling
- property return assistance
- orientation to the criminal justice system
- court support
- case status/case disposition
- employer/school notification
- victim of crime claims assistance

Other Services

- creditor /employer intervention
- witness notification
- witness protection
- restraining order assistance
- restitution assistance

Monday thru Friday
8:00AM—5:00PM

Riverside 951-955-5450
Riverside Juvenile 951-358-4152
Banning 951-922-7136
Toll Free Number 866-217-3766

Southwest 951-304-5680
Toll Free Number 866-217-7699

Indio 760-863-8408
Blythe 760-921-5840
Toll Free Number 866-217-3769

Riverside Family Justice Center
951-955-6100
Southwest Family Justice Center
951-304-5680
Victim of Crime Claims Unit
951-955-5460

MICHAEL A. HESTRIN

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



Division Of Victim Services

Juvenile Court Edition

What Every Victim and Witness of Juvenile Crime Should Know

Guide to the Juvenile Justice System: Juvenile Court

The Division of Victim Services can help you understand how the system works and can keep you informed about your case. To do this, however, we must have your current address and telephone number and a way to reach you if you are going to be out of town.

This brochure is a guide to the terms you may encounter as your case moves through the juvenile justice system.

Initial Hearing

- The minor will admit or deny filed allegations.
- The minor will be assigned an attorney.
- If the minor does not admit to the allegations, a date for a hearing will be set.
- If the minor admits to the allegations the case is set for a dispositional hearing, or the minor may receive a disposition at this time.

The 654 Hearing *

- The minor requests he/she be considered for informal probation and asks for a report to be completed.
- The probation officer will prepare a report making a recommendation to grant or not to grant informal probation.
- The victim or the victim's parent or guardian may make a Victim Impact Statement to the judge at this time expressing the impact the crime has had in their lives.

The Deferred Entry Of Judgment *

- The probation officer makes a report determining if the minor qualifies for the Deferred Entry of Judgment Program.
- If the minor qualifies he/she must admit to the filed allegations and agree to be monitored from 1 to 3 years. The minor is required to attend review hearings. After successful completion of the program, the minor's record will be sealed.

Pretrial

- The district attorney and defense attorney exchange information and discuss possible resolution or set the trial date.
- The minor may admit to the allegations and the case may be set for a dispositional hearing at this time.

Contested Jurisdictional Hearing (The Trial)

- Victims and witnesses are subpoenaed to testify. A subpoena is a court order requiring you to be present at a specific time and place.
- A judge, not jury, will listen to the evidence and decide if the allegations are true or false.
- When you appear as a witness, you will be asked to answer question from the deputy district attorney, the defense attorney, and in some instances the judge. They will ask you what you saw, heard, or did that might be relevant to the allegations against the minor.
- You may be excluded from the courtroom when other witnesses are testifying. This is to ensure that the testimony or memory of one witness does not influence the testimony of another.
- If the case is continued or postponed, we will make every effort to let you know prior to your appearance date.

Dispositional Hearing

- The judge will determine what will happen to the minor.
- The victim or victim's parent or guardian may make a Victim Impact Statement to the judge at this time expressing the impact the crime has had in their lives and about the consequences to the minor. A Victim Impact Statement can be presented in different ways; in person, in writing and audio or video-taped. Victim Services can assist with helping you make your statement.

Probation Department

- A probation officer may contact you to determine the details of the criminal case and discuss the impact of the crime on you and your family.

Defense Attorney

- The defense attorney may ask to speak with you to find out the nature of your testimony. There are no laws or rules prohibiting you from telling the minor's attorney (defense attorney) or a representative of the defense what your testimony will be. However, you are not required to do so. This is your decision. Please feel free to discuss any of your concerns with the deputy district attorney or victim witness advocate.

Restitution

- Restitution may be requested in cases where the victim has suffered a loss as a result of the crime. These losses may include medical or psychological counseling bills, property loss, income loss, etc. Please feel free to discuss your restitution request with your victim witness advocate. An order for restitution may only be made if the allegations against the minor are found true. The order is made at the completion of the case and is collected through the courts' financial services division.

* 654 Hearings and Deferred Entry of Judgment Proceedings are not set for cases in the Eastern part of Riverside County.

