



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GRAY DAVIS Governor

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# ***California Resource Guide***

## **Directory of State Programs Assisting Crime Victims with Disabilities**

Presented by  
THE STATE COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
ON CRIME VICTIMS WITH DISABILITIES

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING  
2002**



## **Foreword**

This document was prepared with information provided by the California State Coordinating Committee on Crime Victims with Disabilities (CVWD).

The Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) formed the CVWD State Coordinating Committee in January 2001, at the request of the California Coalition on Crime Against People with Disabilities. The Coalition is a grassroots interagency association of individuals focused on issues surrounding the victimization of people with disabilities.

This committee was formulated to attain three main goals: (1) To establish and maintain a network of state agencies and statewide associations that provide services to people with disabilities in order to provide coordination at the state level; (2) To meet on a regular basis to facilitate the exchange of information among the members of that network; and (3) To actively search for and identify opportunities for interagency collaboration on this issue.

Twenty-two state agencies and statewide associations participate in this coordinating committee. These agencies are committed to streamlining and improving California's response in assisting crime victims with disabilities.

The information contained in this document includes a summary of each agency or organization's mission and the programs, resources, services, and training's they provide. Each institution listed provides the name of a person who may be contacted for further information. We hope you find this guide a helpful resource in your endeavors on this critical issue.

This Resource Guide may be accessed electronically at [www.ocjp.ca.gov/publications.htm](http://www.ocjp.ca.gov/publications.htm). Questions concerning this document may be addressed to Kirby Everhart, Chief, Child and Youth Services Division at (916) 327-3687 or [kirby.everhart@ocjp.ca.gov](mailto:kirby.everhart@ocjp.ca.gov).

## **Acknowledgements**

The Office of Criminal Justice Planning takes pride in acknowledging the efforts of April Alexander and Cathy Sawaya in the development of this resource guide. These two graduate student assistants exercised great creativity, tact, and skill in coordinating with the member agencies of this coordinating committee and in collecting, formatting and editing the information contained in this resource guide. This document stands as evidence of their efforts and abilities.

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## **Executive Summary**

Crime against people with substantial disabilities is a problem similar to violence against women, elders and children, but remains largely invisible and un-addressed. Over 90 percent of people with developmental disabilities will experience sexual abuse at some point in their lives. Forty-nine percent will experience 10 or more abusive incidents.<sup>1</sup>

One reason for these high rates of victimization is that crimes against people with substantial disabilities are often not reported. This failure to report primarily stems from a widespread perception among people with substantial disabilities, their families and their advocates that reporting crimes may often be useless. This perception is based on years of experience, during which they have seen crimes against the disabled often go unpunished. While the criminal justice system will not ignore crimes against persons with disabilities, the prosecution of perpetrators is limited by several factors.

- The victim may have difficulty understanding the nature of the crime, or may not understand that it can and should be reported to authorities.
- The victim may have difficulty in communicating, due to sensory or speech deficits.
- Police, sheriff's and others who must work with persons with disabilities to pursue a criminal, are frequently untrained in the skills necessary to carry out such work successfully.
- Victims with substantial disabilities are sometimes viewed as unreliable witnesses, or witnesses who can easily be confused by defense attorneys, leading some prosecutors to believe that such cases cannot be won.
- Some officials view crime against persons with disabilities as less serious than crime against non-disabled persons.

Regardless of the reasons why crimes are not reported, the components of the criminal justice system cannot take necessary action when they are not informed of crimes. At the same time, when such crimes are in fact reported, the criminal justice system needs to respond appropriately. This is an issue of civil rights and equal treatment under the law for persons with disabilities.

The issue of crime and violence against people with disabilities has received little attention compared to the efforts to address child abuse, domestic violence or elder abuse. Adult Protective Services does respond to reported abuse of "dependent adults" but the majority of reported abuse involves elder abuse. Crimes against people with disabilities are usually referred to law enforcement. The broader issues of prevention, risk reduction and assisting law enforcement with crime victims with disabilities have been largely overlooked.

The Crime Victims with Disabilities State Coordinating Committee is a group of state agencies and statewide associations sharing information on related projects and programs addressing this problem through multiple avenues and actively searching for opportunities for interagency collaboration on this issue. This Resource Guide presents twenty-two of those agencies.

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<sup>1</sup> Valenti-Hein, D. & Schwartz, L. (1995). The sexual abuse interview for those with developmental disabilities. James Stanfield Company. Santa Barbara: California. Found in: Reynolds, L., (1997). People with Mental Retardation & Sexual Abuse: The Arc's Q&A on People with Mental Retardation. <http://thearc.org/faqs/Sexabuse.html>

- **Arc California** – The Arc chapters are interested in the civil rights of people with developmental disabilities. Arc California established a Criminal Justice Task Force for persons with disabilities. Arc California is actively involved in legislation that deals with the abuse of people with developmental disabilities to include training to prevent and detect abuse, reporting requirements and the prosecution of abusers.
- **Board of Prison Terms (BPT)** – This agency provides crime victims with disabilities an opportunity to testify at parole board hearings. The board furnishes aids and services for people with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- **California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (Cal CASA)** – This organization represents California’s rape crisis centers. They offer training, technical assistance, and advocate for policy changes on behalf of their membership.
- **California Coalition on Crime Against Persons With Disabilities (CCCPWD)** – The group was formulated to reduce crime and violence against persons with disabilities. The group is committed to ensuring equal protection and equal justice under the law for persons with disabilities.
- **California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST)** – Offers courses for law enforcement officers on interacting with individuals with disabilities.
- **California Department of Aging, Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OSLTCO)** – The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program investigates elder abuse complaints in long-term care facilities and in the adult residential care facilities and adult day health care facilities. The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman develops policy and provides oversight to the local Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs.
- **California Department of Corrections, The Office of Victim Services and Restitution (OVSR)** – This program provides multiple services to victims of crime committed by inmates or parolees.
- **California Department of Developmental Services (DDS)** – Their mission is to provide leadership and direction to ensure Californians with developmental disabilities have opportunities to lead safe and healthy lives.
- **California Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services Bureau (APS Bureau)** – Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services Bureau– Acts as a resource of information, policy and technical assistance for each county Adult Protective Services program. Assists non-institutionalized elders and dependent adults when they have suffered physical abuse or neglect, sexual assault, financial exploitation, emotional intimidation, and/or abandonment. The abuse may be self-inflicted or by another individual. Adult Protective Services programs provide each county with an emergency response system that provides in-person support 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- **California District Attorney’s Association (CDAA)** – Provides training for prosecutors on interacting with sexual assault and abuse survivors with cognitive and physical disabilities.

- **California Health and Human Services Agency, Crime Victims with Disabilities Initiative (CVDI)**– The Initiative seeks to reduce the frequency of violent crime against people with disabilities, improve the reporting of these crimes, improve the investigation, prosecution and trial of these crimes and to secure needed support for the victims of these crimes. It funds six model grants, provides large scale training of human service providers, requires annual plans of departments serving people with disabilities, establishes personal safety planning, and conducts a public information campaign in pursuit of these goals.
- **California Medical Training Center (CMTC)** – Recognizing the growing need for health care providers to be educated on working with victims of violence with disabilities, the CMTC is increasing efforts to include persons with disabilities and organizations that represent them as instructors, curriculum designers and project advisors. The CMTC has been under contract with the California Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Mental Health to develop and deliver courses on crime victims with disabilities.
- **California State Library (CSL)** – Maintains a special collection of materials related to crime victims with disabilities. Subjects include criminal justice, victim support and service systems for persons with disabilities. The information is presented in books, periodicals, articles, conference papers, unpublished manuscripts and government publications.
- **California Youth Authority (CYA)** – Provides accommodation to crime victims with disabilities at Youthful Offender Parole Board Hearings.
- **Governor’s Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP)** – Offers and administers state and federal grants to communities for law enforcement, crime prevention, and organizations offering services to crime victims, including victims with disabilities.
- **Judicial Council of California** – Judicial Council Access and Fairness Advisory Committee reviews and makes recommendations about fairness issues in the courts in relation to; race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and persons with disabilities.
- **Office of the Attorney General, Crime and Violence Prevention Center (CVPC)** – The program on elder and dependent adult abuse provides awareness and education materials to communities and organizations throughout the state.
- **Organization of Area Boards (OAB)** – Offers protection, advocacy, and information regarding rights of persons with developmental disabilities.
- **State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)** – Expands abilities of the California Criminal Justice system to respond to individuals with developmental disabilities who are victims, witnesses, those that are accused or convicted. The agency funds a variety of projects throughout the state.
- **State Independent Living Council (SILC)** – Provides funding to Independent Living Centers so they may employ trained counselors to work with individuals with disabilities who have been victims for any reason. Interacts with attendees at local support meetings, forums, trainings and conferences regarding personal safety and security.

- **Statewide California Coalition for Battered Women (SCCBW)** – Our main goal is to help advocates and agencies statewide provide the highest quality programs by encouraging collaboration and by sharing information, expertise, “best practices” and innovative approaches to combat relationship violence.
- **Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board** – Administers and enforces restitution and reimbursement for crime victims.

This document discusses a wide array of institutions throughout the state of California who take seriously their part in working with crime victims with disabilities. Our hope is to be of service to California within our specialized capacities. We have come together to understand each agencies purpose and to make advances in the services each organization provides.

## Arc California

Contact: Laurie Shields  
Executive Director  
1225 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 590  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-552-6691  
[arcca@quicknet.com](mailto:arcca@quicknet.com)

Arc California is the oldest and largest family-based advocacy and service organization in the state representing people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. Arc is made up of 26 local chapters that provide advocacy and direct services to thousands of individuals with developmental disabilities. In addition to advocacy, these services include work opportunities, supported employment, personal/social skills training, residential/housing options, crisis intervention, respite and other related supports.

Arc California is also actively involved in the monitoring and development of public policy (legislation and regulations) that affect the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. We work closely with the Department of Developmental Services, Department of Rehabilitation and other related state agencies and the State Senate and Assembly to ensure that people with developmental disabilities receive adequate protections, the necessary services and supports and appropriate levels of funding.

Of particular interest to the chapters of Arc California are the civil rights of people with developmental disabilities, including the right to be free from harm and abuse. To further these efforts, Arc California established a Criminal Justice Task Force for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. This task force addresses all issues related to criminal justice, including civil and legal rights, courtroom proceedings, incarceration, and involvement in the criminal justice system as a witness, suspect or victim

Additionally, Arc California is actively involved in legislation that specifically deals with the abuse of people with developmental disabilities. This can include training to prevent and/or detect abuse, reporting requirements and the prosecution of the abuser(s). Several initiatives that are currently being developed include research to modify the existing abuse reporting requirements, education and outreach to our local chapters, an information and resource website, and methods to better educate the general public regarding the abuse of people with developmental disabilities.

## Board of Prison Terms

Contact: Katie James  
Victim Assistance Coordinator  
1515 K Street, Suite 600  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-327-5933  
TTY: 916-327-9018  
Toll-free: 1-866-278-9282  
[kjames@bpt.ca.gov](mailto:kjames@bpt.ca.gov)

The Board of Prison Terms (BPT, or Board) is California's adult parole board. The Board conducts parole consideration hearings for all inmates sentenced to life terms with the possibility of parole, establishes terms and conditions for all persons released on parole in California, and conducts parole revocation hearings for violations of the terms and conditions of parole. The Board is committed to helping crime victims by providing support services to make the process of testifying at BPT hearings as convenient as possible. Victim witnesses provide an important element of due process. The Board furnishes aids and services for persons with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Prior notice of the place and time of the hearing will be provided. A victim witness with a disability should contact the Board so appropriate action is taken to ensure that the hearing room is accessible. In addition to ADA accommodation, a translation service provided by CyraCom is available to facilitate two-way communication in up to 120 different languages and dialects. ADA or translation services can be arranged by calling the Board's ADA Compliance Unit at (916) 322-4078 or the Board's Victim Assistance Coordinator at (916) 327-5933. That office will also answer questions regarding specific types of accommodation or other assistance that may be available.

## California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA)

Contact: Rape Prevention Resource Center  
CALCASA  
1215 K Street, Suite 1100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 446-2520, Toll Free (888) 9CALCASA  
FAX (916) 446-8166  
Web-site: [www.calcasa.org](http://www.calcasa.org)  
E-mail: [info@calcasa.org](mailto:info@calcasa.org)

The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) is a non-profit, statewide membership organization committed to providing leadership, vision, and resources to rape crisis centers, individuals, and other entities working to end sexual violence. CALCASA's Rape Prevention Resource Center provides the following services:

Library: The Rape Prevention Resource Center Library provides rape crisis centers access to a wide range of materials relating to the issue of violence against women and nonprofit organization management. The collection contains over 6,100 items in a variety of formats such as books, curricula, reports, journals and articles, dissertations, as well as videos and cassette tapes.

The CALCASA Rape Prevention Resource Library contains a wealth of information relating to the issue of violence against people with disabilities. The collection of books, journals, articles, curricula, dissertations and audio/visual materials provides California's rape crisis centers with materials in subjects ranging from incidence and prevalence of violence against persons with physical, developmental and learning disabilities to capacity building for providing services to people with disabilities. While intervention is an important focus of the library holdings, curricula and audio/visual materials relating to violence prevention and self-protection strategies are also available.

Future library expansion plans will continue to focus on the acquisition of materials which will further help increase the awareness and sensitivity of organizations providing services to sexual assault survivors with disabilities. The library is committed to being the home to cutting edge research on victimization and prevention issues. Through this commitment, the library will continue to be a valuable resource for service providers.

- **Self-Defense Instructor Training:** The Self-Defense Instructor Program trains rape crisis center staff to become self-defense instructors. The CALCASA self-defense model is a feminist one, which incorporates physical fighting techniques and assertiveness training to create an overall sense of empowerment. The training is designed to support and encourage the growth of self-defense programs at rape crisis centers as part of their rape prevention efforts throughout the state. These efforts assist rape crisis centers to structurally incorporate self-defense within each center's rape prevention outreach strategies and promote access for persons with disabilities and other traditionally marginalized groups. Since the CALCASA self defense program's inception, rape crisis centers have dramatically increased their outreach efforts, and several classes for people with disabilities have taken place across the state.

- **Statewide Leadership Conference:** The Statewide Leadership Conference for rape crisis centers is an event that brings together all areas of sexual assault program staff. Participants receive training on emerging issues, survivor oriented intervention information, breakthrough prevention efforts and the latest non-profit management trends in addition to discussions on leadership within our field. This conference is a time for staff at rape crisis centers to connect with others involved in the movement to end sexual violence in California as well as walk away with new tools to assist them in their work in the community. Examples of specific CALCASA workshops are Adapted Methodology on Self-Defense for Persons with Disabilities, Teaching Abuse Prevention to Persons with Developmental Disabilities and the CALCASA Diversity Initiative.
  
- **Training and Technical Assistance:** Training and technical assistance specialists respond to requests for information, training, and technical assistance from California rape crisis centers, state coalitions, government agencies and the general public. They offer training and technical assistance on issues related to rape crisis services for persons with disabilities, such as accessibility issues. The technical assistance staff at CALCASA works with rape crisis centers on developing prevention programs and improving both cultural and physical accessibility for survivors with disabilities. Training and technical assistance is available from 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday by phone. Technical assistance may occur on site if requested. Requests can be for any type of information or research, but generally fit into the following five categories:
  - Information and Referral;
  - Distribution of Existing Materials;
  - Technical Assistance: Research or Synthesis of Materials;
  - Technical Assistance: Advice; and
  - Technical Assistance: Outside Consultant.
  
- **Training and Technical Assistance Database:** The Training and Technical Assistance Database is a project that organizes and coordinates information about experts, consultants and trainers in the field of sexual violence. The database offers quick reference and referral for agencies and individuals interested in utilizing trainers, consultants or other experts for training, presentations, problem-solving, or special services.
  
- **PUBLICATIONS AND VIDEOS:** CALCASA HAS DEVELOPED MANY PUBLICATIONS DESIGNED FOR RAPE CRISIS CENTERS AND ALLIED PROFESSIONALS. THESE PUBLICATIONS INCLUDE:
  - Ø **Creating Access: Serving Survivors of Sexual Assault with Disabilities.** A packet with information and tools to assist organizations in enhancing services to sexual assault survivors with disabilities.
  - Ø **Searching for Answers: Understanding and Preventing Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault**
  - Ø **Stopping the Stigma: Changing Public Perceptions of Sexual Assault in Rural Communities**
  - Ø **Focusing on Pride: Sexual Assault Prevention in the LGBT Community (Part I)**
  - Ø **California SART Manual**
  - Ø **Catalysts for Change: Sexual Assault Prevention in the Schools**

- Ø Diversify Your Funding: Essential Information on Fund Development to Get You Started and Keep You Going
- Ø Maintaining Your Most Valuable Resource: A Look at Personnel Issues
- Ø Media Advocacy Guide
- Ø Research on Rape and Violence – an annual statistics report
- Ø Sexual Assault Awareness Month – information and activities packet
- Ø Strategic Forum – a plan to end sexual violence in California
- Ø Support for Survivors: Training for Sexual Assault Counselors
- Ø Counseling Tools for the Prevention or Reduction of Post Traumatic Stress Reactions

Videos include:

- Ø Learning Our Legacy

## California Coalition on Crime Against Persons With Disabilities

Contact: Michael Dunne  
Chair  
1722 J Street, Suite 2  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-447-2237  
[mdunne@disabilityrights-cdr.org](mailto:mdunne@disabilityrights-cdr.org)

The coalition is made up of citizens, elements of the criminal justice system, advocacy organizations and other members of the community. The group is united to reduce crime and violence against people with disabilities and committed to ensuring equal protection under the law and equal justice.

Members of the Coalition are instrumental in promoting federal legislation and federal grant projects for assisting crime victims with disabilities. As an advocacy group, the Coalition was instrumental in getting the federal Crime Victims with Disabilities Awareness Act passed in 1998. Additionally, the Coalition helped to convince the federal Office for Victims of Crime to hold a national seminar on the issue of crime against persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the Coalition successfully worked with the Congress to authorize funding for violence against women with disabilities in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization Act.

At the state level, the Coalition successfully drafted and sponsored 1999 legislation to strengthen mandated reporting of crimes against persons with disabilities. The Coalition proposed to the governor that he establish a crime victim's with disabilities coordinating committee for state agencies. The Office of Criminal Justice Planning in the Governor's Office established such a committee in 2000.

The Coalition's efforts have also resulted in the production of a Peace Officer's Standards and Training (POST)/Attorney General's Office effort to create a paper on prosecuting crimes against persons with disabilities.

The Coalition played a key role in the establishment of a comprehensive state government program to address crime and violence against people with disabilities; the result is the Crime Victims with Disabilities Initiative in the California Health and Human Services Agency in 2000.

Goals for the organization include the following:

- Create awareness and increase involvement with issues pertaining to crime victims with disabilities.
- Identify problems contributing to the victimization of people with disabilities.
- Work to eliminate systemic problems contributing to the victimization of people with disabilities.
- Review the criminal justice process to identify barriers and promote solutions to offer better access to programs and services.

## California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.)

Contact: Jan Bullard  
Senior Law Enforcement Consultant  
1601 Alhambra Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 227-4887  
[jbullard@post.ca.gov](mailto:jbullard@post.ca.gov)

California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) was created to establish and monitor the training and hiring standards for peace officers throughout the state. POST provides support to all participating police and sheriff's departments and certifies courses and course presenters.

POST has been involved with the creation of training materials on disabilities for law enforcement for several years. Since 1990 we recognize the importance of training law enforcement to better manage contacts that involve persons with disabilities or mental illness.

The following is training on disabilities offered through POST for law enforcement:

- 1) The two-hour telecourse, *Managing contacts with the Developmental Disabled (DD) or Mentally Ill (MI)*, was broadcast statewide in 1990. This video provided officers with the ability to recognize and understand DD and MI, as well as the historical and legal background of legislation pertaining to this issue. Officers were also provided with the tools to better manage contacts with persons suffering from DD or MI rather they are the suspect, victim or witness to crimes.
- 2) The two-hour telecourse *Law Enforcement Awareness of Disabilities* was broadcast statewide in 1995. This video provided officers with skills to interview persons with disabilities and the importance of recognizing these conditions quickly and accurately to prevent further trauma to someone who has already been a victim. The video also focuses on the laws that pertain to victim's rights.
- 3) Law Enforcement Awareness of Disabilities (LEADS) created a train the trainer course for instructors of Learning Domain 37, a disabilities course for the basic academy. The State Council on Developmental Disabilities funded this program.
- 4) *Elder Abuse* telecourse was first broadcast in 1997. This video explains the different types of abuse, both financial and physical. The video discusses techniques for interviewing elderly victims of abuse.
- 5) *Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Overview, Part I* was broadcast in 1998. The segment presents a detailed overview of common crimes associated with financial abuse of elders and dependant adults. It also reviews psychological, physical and emotional indicators that can afflict the elderly and methods to better address these conditions when investigating elder abuse crimes.

- 6) *Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Overview, Part II* was broadcast in 1998. This was the second in a series that provides details on investigations of possible elder and dependant abuse.
- 7) *Elder Abuse Update* was broadcast in 2001 and features the newest legal information surrounding elders and dependant adults. It explains to law enforcement what to look for in both private home and institutional care facilities as is pertains to elders and dependant adults and provides tools for interviewing persons with mental or physical disabilities.
- 8) The Commission on POST developed a Field Officer Training Guide reference for law enforcement officers to use during encounters with persons with mental and developmental disabilities. One chapter of the guide is devoted to victimization issues, and includes a list of indicators of abuse or neglect and tips for improving communication and interview techniques. The guide, entitled *Police Response to People with Mental Illness or Developmental Disability* (November 2000), will be made available to law enforcement agencies throughout the state of California through the POST Media Distribution Center.
- 9) The Commission on POST and the California Attorney General's Office jointly developed a law enforcement training video on crime victims with disabilities. Subject matter experts from local and state agencies throughout California provided material for this 64-minute video. Content includes interview strategies and techniques designed to improve levels of service and prosecution rates for crimes involving persons with physical and developmental disabilities. POST will broadcast the video via satellite to law enforcement agencies throughout California in 2002. The video will be made available to the public through the Attorney General's office.

## California Department of Aging, Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Contact:        Gordon Migliore  
                    Program Manager  
                    Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman  
                    1600 K Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
                    Sacramento, CA 95814  
                    916-323-6679  
                    [gmiglior@aging.ca.gov](mailto:gmiglior@aging.ca.gov)

The California Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program was created by the Older Americans Act (OAA) to advocate for the rights of, and improve the quality of life for persons residing in long-term care facilities. It began in 1975 as a model project, and in 1978, Congress amended the OAA to require an ombudsman program for nursing home advocacy in each state. Several laws were passed in California to increase responsibilities of the LTC Ombudsman.

The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman has oversight responsibility for 35 local ombudsman programs throughout the State. More than 100 paid staff and over 1,200 volunteers advocate on behalf of over 183,000 residents of long-term care facilities, including nearly 1,500 skilled nursing and intermediate care facilities, and more than 6,000 residential care facilities for the elderly.

Staff and volunteers of the local programs receive, investigate, and resolve complaints made by or on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities. Local programs work with licensing agencies and law enforcement in the investigation of abuse in facilities. They also provide community education and involvement, maintain a regular presence in facilities, advocate to influence public policy related to long-term care, serve as members of interdisciplinary teams within their counties, witness advance directives for residents in nursing facilities, and address poor and best practices in facilities. State Office responsibilities include: providing technical assistance to and evaluation of local programs; conducting semi-annual statewide training conferences; acting as liaison with licensing and regulatory agencies; working to influence public policy through legislative bill analyses and promulgation of policies and regulations; acting as a clearinghouse for information and data related to long-term care issues; compiling statewide data on the ombudsman program; providing a 24-hour CRISIS line telephone service to receive complaints.

## California Department of Corrections, Office of Victims Services and Restitution

Contact: Sandi Menefee  
Assistant Director  
Office of Victim Services and Restitution  
PO Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001  
916-358-2438  
[smenefee@evalcomp.corr.ca.gov](mailto:smenefee@evalcomp.corr.ca.gov)

Contact: Rosemarie Munsey  
Victim Services Manager  
P.O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001  
916-359-2436  
[rmunsey@evalcomp.corr.ca.gov](mailto:rmunsey@evalcomp.corr.ca.gov)

### **Program Overview**

In 1988 the Office of Victim Services and Restitution (OVSR) was established in the California Department of Corrections (CDC) as part of a growing commitment to victim awareness and assistance. The program examines and responds to the various needs of crime victims. It is also responsible for ensuring that inmates/parolees, correctional staff, and the general public recognize and understand the impact of crime on victims.

The scope of OVSR continues to grow. Staff provides services focused on emphasizing the rights and needs of victims, and a commitment to improving the treatment of victims at all levels within CDC. Direct services are provided upon request to the victims of the inmates and parolees under the jurisdiction of CDC.

Following is a list of direct services OVSR staff provides on a regular basis:

- Notify of the release, death, or escape of an inmate.
- Notify of Board of Prison Terms (BPT) hearings for inmates serving life sentences.
- Assist victims who request imposing special conditions of parole.
- Intervene on behalf of victims being threatened or harassed by inmates or parolees.
- Assist victims in attaining inmate HIV test results.
- Manage CDC restitution collections.
- Refer victims to local service providers.
- Provide training to parole agents, new employees, Victim Service Representatives in all 33 institutions, and organizations at the local and national level.
- Assist staff victims.
- Develop and distribute victim services information for National Crime Victims' Rights Week.
- Coordinate high notoriety cases with the Institutions, the Parole Regions and the Executive Office.
- Establish "Impact of Crime on Victims" program for offenders.

- Place victims on advisory committees.
- Support institutions and regional parole fundraising activities.
- Partner with other states in resolving crime victim issues.

### **Services to Victims with Special Needs**

The Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) awarded the OVSR a federal Victim Of Crime Act (VOCA) grant for the purpose of expanding access to services for the under-served populations of California. While the services of OVSR are available to all who require assistance, the goal of the grant is to eliminate all barriers to services for victims with special needs, cultural or language considerations. Expanded services that will be available by July of 2002 to include:

- § OVSR program materials in Braille, audio tapes and special computer disks for sight and hearing impaired victims;
- § Revision of major program materials to simplify language for ease of comprehension;
- § Training of all staff to use the California Relay Service (CRS) when necessary, to communicate with callers who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech disabled;
- § Translation of key program materials into Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Russian and Tagalog to eliminate language barriers;
- § Telephone interpretation services;
- § Expanded program outreach to organizations serving various cultural and ethnic groups as well as organizations that advocate for the disabled.

### **Delivery of Services**

Although victims do not come to a centralized location to receive OVSR services, the OVSR is wheelchair accessible. Services are generally requested and provided by telephone or in writing. The exception is the outreach and training provided by staff to various groups and organizations requesting presentations and training.

## California Department of Developmental Services

Contact: Emily Woolford  
Community Program Specialist II  
1600 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 330 M.S. 3-22  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-657-2692  
[Ewoolfor@dds.ca.gov](mailto:Ewoolfor@dds.ca.gov)

### Mission

DDS' mission includes providing leadership and direction to ensure Californians with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to lead safe and healthy lives.

### Wellness Initiative Projects Focusing on Safety and Victimization Prevention

Through the Wellness Initiative, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) awarded regional centers with Wellness Project grants to provide training and resources for consumers, families, and service providers focusing on safety and victimization prevention.

- **Promoting Positive Mental Health and Well-Being through Teaching Personal Safety**  
Funded in fiscal year (FY) 1997/98 and completed in the Spring 2000, this project promoted the safety of women with developmental disabilities in South Central Los Angeles Regional Center's catchment area. Training was conducted so women could acquire skills enabling them to recognize and avoid risky situations. Service providers participated in workshops reinforcing these strategies. Both consumers and staff received training manuals and guides for future reference.
- **Abilities: Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Prevention**  
Funded in FY 1999/00, this project provides consumers in Los Angeles County with the necessary knowledge and skills to prevent and/or protect themselves against assault or exploitation. The project also strives to prepare these individuals for accessing medical, legal, and support services in the event of sexual assault or exploitation.
- **Implementing a Model for Sexual Victimization Prevention**  
Funded in FY 1999/00, this project created local outreach teams in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties of volunteers who will be able to provide direct training to consumers and families regarding personal safety and the prevention of sexual victimization. It will also provide policy and community outreach on these topics. This project was implemented in Spring 2001.
- **Awareness and Safety Training for Parents with Developmental Disabilities**  
Funded in FY 1997/98, and completed in June 1999, this project trained consumers with children on parenting and health issues in Imperial and San Diego Counties.

- **Safe and Strong: Strategies for Personal Safety**

Funded in FY 1999/00, this project will reduce the risk of sexual assault and victimization for persons with developmental disabilities by providing a series of training videos for consumers.

### **Efforts to Reduce Victimization**

- Promising community-based Wellness Projects are being piloted in some areas of the State.
- DDS launched a Forensic Project to provide statewide leadership in the development of a service delivery infrastructure, which will enhance the coordination and provision of services for persons with developmental disabilities who are involved with the judicial system.
- Critical training and education is being provided to many consumers, families and service providers.
- DDS is collaborating with the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics on their National Crime Victimization Survey. This survey measures the incidence and characteristics of specific crimes and provides information about the characteristics of victims and offenders, as well as the consequences of these crimes.
- DDS is participating in several committees and workgroups that are working to generate solutions to reduce victimization. These committees include: the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning Child Abuse and Disability Project, Shifting the Focus: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Advancing Violence Prevention, the Victims Compensation and Government Claims Board Mental Health Advisory Committee, the California Victims of Crime Committee, and the Crime Victims with Disabilities State Coordinating Committee.
- Regional centers are collaborating with UC Irvine, law enforcement agencies, special education, providers and volunteers to create training materials and provide training through local outreach teams.

## California Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services Bureau

Contact: Jenene Acosta  
Chief  
Adult Protective Services Bureau  
Adult Programs Branch  
744 P Street, M.S. 19-96  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-229-0321  
[Jenene.Acosta@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Jenene.Acosta@dss.ca.gov)

Following the passage of SB 2199 effective January 1, 1999, an enhanced statewide Adult Protective Services Program (APS) was created to provide services to elders and dependent adults who have been abused or neglected. APS assists non-institutionalized elders and dependent adults when they have suffered physical abuse or neglect, sexual assault, financial exploitation, emotional intimidation, and/or abandonment. The abuse might be mistreatment by another or self-inflicted. In either case, APS investigates all reports of abuse and/or neglect for non-institutionalized elders and dependent adults.

Under SB 2199 each county was to establish an APS program that includes an emergency response system that provides in person response 24 hours per day, seven days per week to reports of abuse to an elder or dependent adult. APS responds within hours to emergency calls and no later than 10 days to non-emergency calls. APS is available to provide consultation, give information, and make referrals for services, and take reports of suspected abuse/neglect.

After accepting the report of abuse, APS visits the client in his/her own home. Every effort is made to engage the client and identify the problems through a comprehensive assessment. Upon completing the assessment, the APS social worker plans with the client for the services needed to stop the abuse and improve the client's life. Such services include crisis intervention; emergency food, clothing, shelter and transportation; Emergency Placement and in-home protection; counseling; case management and tangible services needed to ensure client safety. All services are voluntary. APS serves with the agreement of the client. There are no restrictions in providing this service based on income or assets. APS participates in a multidisciplinary approach to serving clients. In this regard, APS tries to pull together the principal service providers involved with the client to develop a service plan to address the needs identified in the assessment.

APS conducts social work investigations of the abuse allegations. If there are findings of abuse, these findings may be shared with law enforcement. The ultimate goal of APS is to ensure the safety and protection of the victim. Because adult abuse sometimes involves criminal activity and because clients are sometimes not competent to make decisions about their person or finances, APS may become involved in legal actions. APS, law enforcement, the medical profession, and the D.A.'s office are all essential partners in these legal proceedings.

## California District Attorney's Association

Contact: Kate Killeen  
Director  
Violence Against Women Project  
731 K Street, Third Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-443-2017  
[kkilleen@cdaa.org](mailto:kkilleen@cdaa.org)

**Sexual Assault & Abuse Survivors – Special Needs/ Special Tactics – A Guide for Prosecutors:** This contains instruction and recommendations to enhance prosecutors crime victim contact skills. It provides commentary on working with crime victims with disabilities and with those who are elderly. An Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – Services/Training/Officers/Prosecution (STOP) federal assistance grant, funded this project.

**Investigation & Prosecution of Sexual Assault Manual:** This includes a chapter on working with crime victims of sexual assault with disabilities – with the theme that it is ability not disability that counts. It was published in March 2001. This project was funded by an OCJP VAWA-STOP federal assistance grant.

**Seminars:** A wide range of seminars are conducted each year and topics related to working with crime victims and witnesses with physical and cognitive disabilities are incorporated into a number of the programs. In addition, a well attended Elder Abuse prosecution seminar is held annually. Training is also distributed via periodicals, technical assistance by in-house experts, videos and computer based repositories and networking. The bulk of these training activities are supported by OCJP grants.

**Elder Abuse Committee:** In January 2000, CDAA launched an Elder Abuse Committee (elder abuse issues had been previously included in the Domestic Violence Committee agendas) and the members address prosecution issues arising from crimes committed against the elderly and dependent adults and legislative initiatives.

### **Other:**

- A member of CDAA was selected to serve on the Department of Social Services Adult Protective Services task force.
- CDAA also assisted in identifying prosecution experts to serve as curriculum advisors to the California Medical Training Center elder abuse training.
- CDAA communicates and/or collaborates with numerous other programs or departments such as the Attorney General's Office, California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, Department of Health Services and many other entities to increase awareness and enhance professionalism as we seek justice, serve victims, and forge a stronger community.

## California Health and Human Services Agency, Crime Victims with Disabilities Initiative

Contact: Daniel D. Sorensen  
Department of Mental Health  
1600 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-651-9906  
[dsorensen@dmhhq.state.ca.us](mailto:dsorensen@dmhhq.state.ca.us)

The Crime Victims with Disabilities Initiative, enacted by Governor Gray Davis in 2001, requires the Health and Human Services Agency (HSSA) to address crime and violence against people with disabilities. The Initiative will be administratively located in Department of Mental Health (DMH) and involves seven of the departments of the Agency. The specific activities proposed include the following:

### **CRIME VICTIMS WITH DISABILITIES SPECIALIST GRANTS**

1. Six of these countywide grants have been funded in a variety of locations throughout the state. The specialists for this program are responsible for assisting people with disabilities, advocates and service providers in identifying and reporting crime. They also assist law enforcement by providing technical assistance in the investigation, prosecution and trial of such cases. Participating agencies will be encouraged to cooperate with Adult Protective Services and Child Abuse Prevention Councils as participants on their existing Multidisciplinary Teams.

The Crime Victims with Disabilities Specialist(s) serves all persons with substantial disabilities and from all age groups in a county and is funded through a contract with a local non-profit or other appropriate organization.

2. Technical assistance and training is provided for each of the specialists. The training covers the criminal justice system including the problems and techniques in investigating, prosecuting and trying cases involving victims with disabilities. It also covers barriers to providing victim support and services. The nature and extent of crimes against people with disabilities and the barriers to justice for this population is also covered. Agency staff and consultants provide the training.
3. During the first three years of this effort, the Department will contract for an independent evaluation of the impact of the Crime Victims with Disabilities Specialists. Outcome measures include (a) the change in number of reported crimes against persons with disabilities, comparing before and after project inception; (b) changes in the number of prosecutions of such crimes; and (c) the change in the rate of convictions for such crimes. Additionally, the evaluator will be responsible for assessing the effectiveness of support provided by the Crime Victims Specialists to law enforcement, and for making recommendations for improvement.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING**

1. Training on the subject of crimes against persons with disabilities will be provided for management and program staff in each department within the HHSA that serves people with disabilities or address violence. This training includes prevention and risk reduction strategies, victims' support programs, improved reporting of crimes and the role of service providers in facilitating effective investigation, prosecution and trial of these crimes.
2. Departments that serve people with disabilities will develop annual plans on how they will address crime and violence against people with disabilities for submission to the HHSA Secretary. Representatives from appropriate departments and consumer organizations have been appointed on an advisory committee to the Secretary. The committee is responsible for (1) reviewing and commenting on the departments' plans; (2) reviewing and coordinating the multi-department activities that address crimes against persons with disabilities; (3) recommending new or alternative activities; and (4) providing the Secretary with information and advice on the subject of crime and violence against people with disabilities.
3. Training will be given to service providers on recognizing and reporting crimes against people with disabilities; prevention and risk reduction techniques; assistance with the criminal justice system; victims support and restitution; and personal safety training. Ten regional training programs will be held for training staff from regional centers, county mental health programs, independent living centers and other appropriate agencies. Each individual trained in these sessions would be expected to train additional individuals within his or her respective service system.

## **PERSONAL SAFETY PLANNING**

1. Regional centers, county mental health programs, independent living centers and other agencies that provide services to clients will be asked to include a personal safety component as part of each individual client plan. The training identified in the Professional Development and Planning section above will provide the information and materials on how to do personal safety planning.
2. Technical assistance will be provided and will include sample materials, manuals and consultation.
3. Departments will include a review of the adequacy of personal safety planning provided in their programs as part of their annual plans.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN**

1. A statewide speaker's bureau will be created similar to the one operated by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime. The bureau will pay travel and other expenses and a limited speaker's fee for experts on crimes against people with disabilities who are invited to speak at conferences and meetings of community organizations who cannot afford such presentations.

2. There will be an information campaign targeted at consumers, their families, service providers, the criminal justice system and the general public. The campaign will focus on preventing crimes against persons with disabilities, reducing the risk of such crimes, assisting crime victims in securing restitution and services and promoting the timely reporting, investigation and prosecution of these crimes. This would include the following activities:
  - Seek increased opportunities for presentations on this subject during existing conferences.
  - Provide press packages that include press releases, fact sheets, list of experts and consultants, summary of the research literature, list of crime victims with disabilities that are willing to tell their stories and other useful materials.
  - Develop and distribute posters dramatizing this issue.
  - Develop and distribute brochures.
  - Prepare and distribute public information packages for consumer, advocacy and service provider groups designed to assist them in encouraging local media to cover this story.
  - Develop and distribute resource directories, including Internet web sites, for the use of consumers, families, service providers, the criminal justice system and the general public.
  - Encourage the development of local resource directories to assure local relevance and address the local cultures and ethnic groups.
  - Encourage staff to write and submit articles to the media, professional journals and newsletters. Commission two articles by freelance writers and assist in securing publication.

#### **COORDINATION WITH OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES**

1. The Initiative cooperates with other agencies and offices in state government such as the State and Consumer Services Agency, Office of Criminal Justice Planning, the Department of Justice, the Board of Control, the Commission on Peace Officer Training and others. Similar cooperation will be pursued with statewide professional organizations such as the District Attorney's Association, the Sheriff's Association, disability advocacy organizations and others.
2. The Initiative also works with federal government agencies, national advocacy and professional organizations.

## California Medical Training Center

Contact: Janet Heath  
Program Manager  
California Medical Training Center  
CAARE Diagnostic and Treatment Center  
Department of Pediatrics  
UC Davis Medical Center  
4800 2nd Avenue, Suite 2200  
Sacramento, CA 95817  
916-734-3834  
[janet.heath@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu](mailto:janet.heath@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu)

Violence is both a public health and criminal justice concern that requires a multidisciplinary approach to intervention. The California Medical Training Center (CMTC) was established by state law to increase access for victims of interpersonal violence to trained health care professionals throughout California. Training is provided for health care providers to identify, evaluate, and document interpersonal violence; to better manage the health care consequences of abuse; and to effectively collaborate with local services, law enforcement agencies, advocacy organizations, and the criminal justice system.

CMTC also provides training to law enforcement officers, district attorneys, public defenders, investigative social workers and judges on medical evidentiary examination procedures and the interpretation of findings. CMTC focuses its training in four critical areas of concern: Child abuse (neglect, physical and sexual abuse), domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, and abuse of persons with disabilities.

Recognizing the growing need for health care providers to be educated on working with victims of violence with disabilities, the CMTC is increasing efforts to include persons with disabilities and organizations that represent them as instructors, curriculum designers and project advisors. CMTC has five statewide advisory groups, as well as a statewide leadership team on domestic violence and health care. Advisory groups include representatives from the criminal justice, protective services, health care, victim advocacy and the state legislature.

A recent discussion with State Senator Deborah Ortiz provided an opportunity to discuss modifying the CMTC enabling legislation to include developing curriculum and delivering training that addresses interpersonal violence and sexual assault against persons with disabilities. Senator Ortiz sponsored the bill that adds this to the enabling legislation.

The CMTC is under contract with the California Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Mental Health to develop and deliver courses on crime victims with disabilities. The purpose of this project is to increase awareness and knowledge on how to provide equal access to the criminal justice system for persons with disabilities. In October 2001, a two-day course was conducted with the six county crime victims with disabilities specialists and their counterparts in law enforcement. An executive briefing will provide the agency secretary, Grantland Johnson, and his executive staff an overview of the project and their role in the implementation of the Crime Victims with Disabilities Initiative. The briefing took place in March 2002.

Course development is underway for the program staff within the Health and Human Services Agency. The course design team is creating a comprehensive course that will provide program staff with an opportunity to better understand persons with disabilities, their risk of victimization, and the systemic barriers they come up against when they are victims of crimes.

## California State Library

Contact: Susan Hanks  
Research Librarian  
California Research Bureau  
Information Services Section  
914 Capitol Mall, Room 400  
P.O. Box 942837  
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001  
916-653-0661  
[shanks@library.ca.gov](mailto:shanks@library.ca.gov)

The California State Library maintains a special collection of materials relating to crime victims with disabilities. The collection consists of selected titles in the general areas of criminal justice, victim support, and the service system for people with disabilities –all of which relate to crime victims with disabilities. The collections include books, periodical articles, conference papers, unpublished manuscripts, and government publications.

Materials currently in the Crime Victims with Disabilities Collection were specifically recommended for acquisition by: the California Crime Victims with Disabilities Initiative, Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning, California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, and the California Department of Justice. The State Library also accepts recommendations from other researchers in the field. Researchers may donate to the collection materials that are unpublished, out of print or otherwise unavailable, providing these materials are free of copyright claims.

Materials in the collection are available to anyone for use within the library. They are available for loan to officials and employees of the State of California, including faculty and staff of the University of California and of the California State University. They are also available for loan to all California libraries for the use of their clientele.

## California Youth Authority

Contact: Sharon Garcia  
Victims Services Specialist  
Office of Prevention and Victim Services  
4241 Williamsborough Dr., Suite 214  
Sacramento, CA 95823-2088  
916-262-1534  
[sgarcia@cya.ca.gov](mailto:sgarcia@cya.ca.gov)

### **Victims Services Division**

The Youth Authority (YA) designated the first Victims Services Specialist in 1983. Since that time, services have grown in response to victims' rights and needs, with a continued focus on offender accountability. The Victims Services Division (VSD) provides coordinated services to victims, local victim witness/assistance agencies, and YA staff. The VSD also works in conjunction with probation departments, judges and the California Department of Corrections to enhance services to crime victims.

The program is based on the premise that the justice system is accountable to victims and has a responsibility to offer services and implement programs that will address the long-term impact of crime on victims. The following victim oriented services and programs are provided by the VSD:

#### **Services to Victims:**

- Notification of release, transfer and/or escape
- Notification of Youthful Offender Parole Board Hearings
- Accompaniment to Youthful Offender Parole Board Hearings
- Restitution collection and disbursement
- Assistance in preparing victim impact statements
- Referrals for civil recovery, counseling, financial assistance and restraining orders

#### **Interagency Cooperation:**

- Victims Reparation Project

The YA and the Victims Compensation and Government Claims Board entered into an interagency agreement to permanently fund the Victims Reparation Project, a sub component of the VSD. The project ensures that offenders are held accountable for the financial consequence of their criminal activity. Cases are monitored for restitution compliance and contact is made with the committing court to amend orders. To achieve consistency in practices related to fines and victim restitution, the project provides policy guidance within the YA and to outside agencies.

- Direct Services Enhancement Project

Beginning in 1998, the Office of Criminal Justice Planning awarded Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to YA for the Direct Services Enhancement Project (DSEP). The project provides services to victims of more serious and violent offenders committed to the YA, many of the victims/survivors having no previous contact with the VSD. Services include an update on the offender's status and current location, assistance in preparing victim impact statements and accompaniment to Youthful Offender Parole Board hearings. The project also focuses on outreach to victims including a TTY line, translated victim assistance materials and emergency travel funds to attend Youthful Offender Parole Board hearings.

**Agency Collaboration:**

The VSD has collaborative meetings or activities with the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency, the Victims Compensation and Government Claims Board, the Youthful Offender Parole Board, the U.S. Department of Justice National Victims Assistance Academy, and the California Victim and Witness Coordinating Council.

- **Legislation**

The VSD drafts and monitors legislation related to public safety, offender accountability and crime victims' rights in the YA.

## Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning

**Contact:** Kirby Everhart  
Chief  
Child and Youth Services Division  
Office of Criminal Justice Planning  
1130 K Street, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 327-3687  
[kirby.everhart@ocjp.ca.gov](mailto:kirby.everhart@ocjp.ca.gov)

The Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) provides state and federal grant funds to local communities throughout the state to enforce law, prevent crime and help crime victims. OCJP is also responsible for developing State policies and programs to address issues and needs in the criminal justice field. OCJP has four distinct branches that provide services to the victims of crime.

- The Victim/Witness Branch
- The Sexual Assault Branch
- The Domestic Violence Branch
- The Children's Branch

The Victim/Witness Branch provides funds for each county to implement a Victim/Witness Assistance Center. These centers provide the primary source of victim services in the county, and will refer victims to other victim service agencies for specialized services. These specialized services include rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, and child abuse treatment centers, which are funded through the other three branches listed above. In addition to the multitude of services provided by these funded agencies, OCJP engages in several efforts specifically focused on improving services to the elderly and persons with disabilities.

- **The Crime Victims with Disabilities State Coordinating Committee:** This is a state level coordinating committee composed of representatives of state agencies or statewide associations which provide services to crime victims with disabilities. The purpose of this group is to develop a network of coordination at the state level, to regularly meet for the sharing of information, and to identify opportunities for interagency collaboration on this issue.
- **The Child Abuse Disability Training and Intervention Project:** This project focuses on the development and implementation of a data collection system to identify, count, and track child victims with disabilities. It provides training to first responders on effective intervention skills, and provides a "Training of Trainers" program to expand the impact of the training provided by this project. This project also convenes a "Think Tank" of experts to identify and develop solutions to systemic problems in California relating to the victimization of children with disabilities. This project links with the Crime Victims With Disabilities State Coordinating Committee sponsored by OCJP for some of its activities related to interagency coordination.

- **The Elder Abuse Advocacy and Outreach Program:** This program funds District Attorney Offices, Police Departments and Probation Departments to provide a victim advocate in those agencies to provide services to victims who are elderly or dependent adults. The program also coordinates enhanced responses among local agencies to allegations of elder and dependent adult abuse. It also implements an outreach awareness program for reporters of elder and dependent adult abuse, along with criminal justice personnel, senior citizens, and the public at large.
- **The Elder Abuse Vertical Prosecution Program:** This program enhances or creates specialized units in prosecutor's offices for the vertical prosecution of felony crimes against elders or dependent adults. Vertical prosecution allows one prosecutor in the District Attorney's Office to work with the same case from beginning to end.
- **The Special Victims Assistance Program:** This program provides funding to private nonprofit organizations that focus on the special needs of victims in unserved/underserved populations. These populations include, but are not limited to persons with disabilities.
- **Special TDD Equipment for Domestic Violence Shelters:** During State Fiscal Year 2000, OCJP identified an opportunity to use increased federal funds to provide Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TDD equipment) in OCJP funded Domestic Violence Shelters in order to enhance services to the hearing impaired. Funds were subsequently provided to the Statewide California Coalition on Battered Women (SCCBW) to survey the needs of the field, and provide appropriate TDD equipment to domestic violence shelters.
- **The Victims Legal Resource Center:** Currently administered by Mc George School of Law, operates the 1-800-VICTIMS hotline. The center's telephone counselors provide legal information to California crime victims and refer them to appropriate resources. The center also publishes and distributes thousands of free information brochures each year, researches relevant legal issues, monitors legislation, and participates in outreach activities designed to assist victims.

Further information on OCJP programs may be obtained through the Internet website at [www.ocjp.ca.gov](http://www.ocjp.ca.gov).

## Judicial Council of California

Contact: Honorable Barbara Kronlund  
Vice-Chair  
Access & Fairness Advisory Committee  
475 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tracy, CA 95376  
(209) 831-5914  
[bak@courts.san-joaquin.ca.us](mailto:bak@courts.san-joaquin.ca.us)

### Summary

The Judicial Council Access and Fairness Advisory Committee was appointed in March 1994 to monitor issues related to access to the judicial system and fairness in state courts. Specifically, the Committee reviews and makes recommendations about fairness issues in the courts related to race, ethnicity, gender, persons with disabilities, and sexual orientation. The advisory committee's charge is consistent with the Council's Long-Range Strategic Plan, in which access and fairness are targeted as primary goals.

### Programs/Council Efforts:

- **Training Conference for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinators:** The committee organized a statewide conference for ADA coordinators and other interested personnel in the California courts in April 1999 to provide training on the basic requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other federal and state statutes such as the Unruh Civil Rights Act, California Civil Code section 21, et seq. Additionally, attendees were taught how to identify the three types of accommodations – physical, programmatic, and communication – and how to provide accommodations in these categories.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Curriculum for Court Personnel:** In collaboration with the California Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER), the committee developed a curriculum entitled *Persons with Disabilities: Access to the Courts* that covers state and federal requirements for court access and accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act and rule 989.3 of the California Rules of Court. The program will be offered to California court personnel.
- **Q & A on Rule 989.3 of the California Rules of Court:** In August 1998, the committee distributed a second edition of a Q & A on Rule 989.3 of the California Rules of Court, which provides the procedural mechanism for acting upon requests for accommodation. It provides responses to the most frequently asked questions about accommodations in the courts. The first Q & A was specifically addressed to court personnel. This second edition is intended for the public. Rule 989.3, promulgated by the committee, gives lawyers, parties, witnesses, jurors, and other persons with disabilities who come before the courts the means to request accommodations so they can obtain full access to court proceedings and programs. The objective of the newsletter, as an adjunct to the court system's outreach programs, is to inform the public about the rule.

### **Other Completed Projects:**

- Phase I implementation of recommendations from the Access for Persons with Disabilities Subcommittee.
- Distributed two reports to court personnel on access to the courts for persons with disabilities, 1997 Public Hearings Report: Access for Persons with Disabilities and 1997 Access to the California State Courts: A Survey of Court Users, Attorneys, and Court Personnel.
- Completed an educational video on access to the courts for persons with disabilities.
- Developed a disability fairness pamphlet for judicial officers on avoiding the appearance of bias.
- Evaluated the status of the courts' local fairness committees.
- Produced a disability etiquette pamphlet for court users and the public.
- Recently completed an educational video on Bias/Fairness issues.
- Completed a survey on Sexual Orientation in the courts and published a report of the study's findings.

### **Other Current Projects:**

- Continue to collect resource material on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) through a variety of sources. A court survey on ADA compliance was distributed. The responses to the survey were analyzed and a report will be prepared for the Council.
- Working closely with CJER to help initiate, improve, and strengthen educational programs on diversity and cultural competence, gender fairness, sexual orientation fairness, and barriers to access and fairness for persons with disabilities.
- Completing a revised Q & A newsletter on California Rule of Court 989.3.
- Creating a Sexual Orientation fairness curriculum for court employees and judicial officers.
- Sponsoring the State-wide Race Conference with participant judges from across the nation.
- Assisting with the National Women of Color Conference.

## Office of the Attorney General, Crime and Violence Prevention Center

Contact: Peggy Osborn  
Program Manager  
Elder & Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention  
1300 I Street, Suite 1150  
Sacramento, California 95814  
(916) 322-5295  
[osbornp@hdcdojnet.state.ca.us](mailto:osbornp@hdcdojnet.state.ca.us)

Within the Attorney General's Crime and Violence Prevention Center, the Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention Program develops and provides statewide education materials to assist individuals, family members, care providers and facilities in the identification, reporting and prevention of elder and dependent adult abuse.

The goal of the Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention Program is to influence public policy, increase the public's awareness about the growing problem of elder and dependent adult abuse, and provide the knowledge and resources necessary to assist in the prevention of these crimes. The Crime and Violence Prevention Center produced a variety of crime prevention publications/videos on this subject.

The Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention Program collaborates and assists with other state departments, statewide associations, and other private and public organizations.

### **Current/Future Projects:**

#### **"Your Legal Duty...Reporting Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse" Training Curriculum and Video:**

Assembly Bills (AB) 1499 (1999) and AB 1690 (2001), sponsored by the Attorney General, required the Department of Justice to develop a training curriculum on recognizing and reporting elder and dependent adult abuse to be used by all long-term care facilities in California. This curriculum and accompanying video was produced and will be distributed to over 14,000 long-term care facilities, local Adult Protective Services (APS) agencies, ombudsmen, law enforcement and district attorneys throughout the state.

#### **Statewide Public Awareness Media Campaign:**

AB 1819 (2000) required the Attorney General, in conjunction with the Health and Human Services Agency, to establish a statewide elder and dependent adult abuse public awareness media campaign. The Attorney General's Crime and Violence Prevention Center is given \$2 million per year for three years, to develop a broad-based statewide public education and awareness effort, beginning in February 2002.

#### **"Crime Victims with Disabilities" Video:**

The Attorney General's Office and the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), in collaboration with other agencies, developed a video for use by law enforcement personnel on effective interviewing strategies and how to communicate with individuals' with disabilities who become victims of a crime. This video is distributed by POST.

## Organization of Area Boards

Contact: Terry Bremer  
Executive Director  
1750 Creekside Oaks Dr.  
Suite 210  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
916-263-5780  
[terryb@oabdd.org](mailto:terryb@oabdd.org)

In 1969 California established a system of volunteer Area Boards to plan, coordinate and develop services for persons with developmental disabilities. These activities were designed to insure equitable planning for and development of services in a vast state with a heterogeneous population and significant differences in social, geographic, political, cultural, and economic patterns and resources.

In 1977 the Area Board system was reorganized in the Lanterman Development Disabilities Services Act (California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4500 et seq.) to:

- Protect and advocate the rights of persons with developmental disabilities;
- Conduct information programs to increase public and professional awareness and eliminate barriers to integration;
- Monitor the practices of publicly funded agencies toward compliance with local, state and federal laws;
- Conduct activities designed to improve the quality of services; and
- Plan, coordinate, and develop new and expanded program opportunities.

The same reorganization created the Organization of Area Boards on Developmental Disabilities, which is assigned the task of resolving common issues, improving coordination, promoting the exchange of information among the Boards, and providing advice and recommendations to state agencies, the Legislature, and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. In addition, the OAB serves as the contract manager for projects funded through the Department of Developmental Services.

The Governor and county boards of supervisors appoint volunteer members of Area Boards. The Boards are funded, in part, with federal Developmental Disabilities Act monies from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. In addition to the mandates in the Lanterman Act, the Boards' focus activities in federal priority areas selected by the Council and mandated in the Developmental Disabilities Act. The Area Boards' serve the broader functional definition of people with developmental disabilities mandated by federal law. Area Boards also provide advocacy assistance to residents of state developmental centers, conduct life quality assessments with regional center consumers, and provide client's rights protection for residents of State Developmental Centers through contracts with the Department of Developmental Services.

## State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Contact: Tony Anderson  
Deputy Director  
2000 O Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-322-8481  
[tony.anderson@dss.ca.gov](mailto:tony.anderson@dss.ca.gov)

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities has a long and continuing interest in expanding the ability of California's criminal justice system to respond appropriately to individuals with developmental disabilities who are victims, witnesses, accused or convicted.

Initially, the Council's focus was on training law enforcement to recognize individuals with developmental disabilities, connect them with regional centers and other community resources, and to look for non-judicial alternatives to resolve problems. In the early 1990's, the Council funded several projects that resulted in POST accredited curriculum for law enforcement officers such as ECHO, LEADS, and TEACH LEADS.

The 1997 – 2000 State Plan made criminal justice a major focus area. During this time frame the Council funded eleven organizations, which implemented fourteen projects, totaling almost two million dollars.

The Council developed the 2001 – 2003 State Plan with the issue of victims with disabilities as one of the four major environmental factors affecting persons with disabilities.

The 2001 State Plan contains three relevant objectives in the criminal justice area that will be the blueprint for utilizing Council resources over the next three years:

- 1) Californians with developmental disabilities will acquire the tools necessary for increased safety in the community through personal safety training and other victimization prevention methods.
- 2) Californians with developmental disabilities will experience increased safety in the community through continuing efforts to educate and assist community law enforcement and other health and safety professionals.
- 3) Californians with developmental disabilities who are victims of crime will have full access to appropriate legal protections and remedies.

## State Independent Living Council (SILC)

Contact: Michael Collins  
Executive Director  
1600 K Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-445-0142  
[mcollins@calsilc.org](mailto:mcollins@calsilc.org)

The California State Independent Living Council (SILC) is an independent agency that reports directly to the Governor's office. Since its establishment in 1996, the SILC acts as a clearinghouse on disability activities and policy in the state.

The activities of the SILC are largely devoted to the Independent Living Centers' program, especially in the development of, and modifications to, the three-year State Plan for Independent Living that is required by federal law. The 66 non-profit Independent Living Center offices in the state provide unique services in the community, and are non-residential in nature. These services differ from many other community organizations in that they are based on need, not financial resources. People of all ages and with all types of disabilities utilize services at Independent Living Centers.

### Activities

The SILC published several important reports dealing with disability in California. The agency compiled and distributed a report on Independent Living that lists all of the services and programs for people with disabilities who live in the community. Reports on the impact of transportation and housing on the disability community were disseminated nationwide, and used by many other agencies and organizations to help determine the status of these critical programs. A recent report on employment supports being utilized by people with disabilities was related to a national study on the issue, and provides updated information on the usability of several of the support programs that are currently in place.

Besides dissemination of reports and similar documents, the SILC hosted statewide forums on issues of critical importance to the disability community. These include assisted suicide, the shortage of sign language interpreters for the deaf, and the status of services for people who are blind. The SILC continues to coordinate activities at the statewide level with the leaders of organizations that can eventually bring about improvements in many of these programs.

People from throughout the country contact the SILC to determine the scope and availability of services they might need to remain independent or to move into a particular community. SILC staff are trained and qualified to make referrals to local Independent Living Centers, and to provide basic information about services available from other organizations that might be able to assist a person in a particular community, or with a particular type of disability need.

The SILC is also responsible for supporting forums and trainings of interest to the disability community, and provides funding for grants that enable many statewide or local organizations to enhance their level of services. The SILC presents and supports conferences related to a variety of disability issues, and participates as a member of several interagency committees, taskforces

and workgroups at the state level. Informally, SILC staff confers and consults with other agencies, organizations and community partners on issues related to the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and similar disability civil rights legislation.

Several Independent Living Centers employ specially trained counselors to work with individuals with disabilities who have been victimized for any reason. Because the disability community as a whole is considered to be a “vulnerable” population, issues of security and personal safety are a frequent subject of discussion at forums, trainings, local support group meetings and conferences.

The SILC's website ([www.calsilc.org](http://www.calsilc.org)) is a resource for people around the country who desire to know what types of activities are occurring in California. We maintain a statewide Disability and Long-Term Care Calendar that includes conferences of interest to the disability community and a list of the public meetings of several statewide agencies and organizations. Any organization can input information to the calendar by sending a message to our Webmaster. Other resources on the SILC's home page include a list of Independent Living Center offices in the state, a similar directory by county and zip code, and copies of all SILC reports. The agency's document on Disability Etiquette is a popular item. All documents can be downloaded or reviewed on the Internet. An extensive list of hyperlinks also leads to organizations and websites nationwide that provide additional disability-related resources.

#### Agency Funding

The federal Rehabilitation Services Administration, and a 10% match from the state General Fund, supports a majority of SILC and its related programs. Independent Living Centers in the state utilize federal, state and local funding, as well as fees for service, contributions, and private fundraising.

## Statewide California Coalition for Battered Women

Contact: Linda Berger, Executive Director  
3711 Long Beach Blvd., Suite 718  
Long Beach, CA 90807  
562-981-1202  
[linda@sccbww.org](mailto:linda@sccbww.org)

### History and Mission

The Statewide California Coalition for Battered Women (SCCBW) is a coalition of advocates and agencies throughout California dedicated to stopping domestic violence. Throughout our history, from our founding in 1976 as the Southern California Coalition for Battered Women, SCCBW has been at the forefront in efforts to provide policy advocacy for victims of domestic violence at the local, regional and state levels and as a source of training, information, referrals, resources and support for victim service providers. As one of the first domestic violence coalitions in the United States, the Southern California Coalition for Battered Women effectively served the changing needs of domestic violence service providers in the eight Southern California counties for training and technical assistance on current issues, advocacy and policy development, and networking opportunities.

In 1997, we changed our name to the Statewide California Coalition for Battered Women to better reflect SCCBW's goal of assisting in the development and coordination of multi-disciplinary and multi-regional prevention services and intervention services for victims of intimate partner violence. Our goal is to help advocates and agencies statewide provide the highest quality programs by encouraging collaboration and by sharing information, expertise, "best practices" and innovative approaches to combat relationship violence.

SCCBW operates within the framework of the Coordinating Community Action Model, which is a wheel with each individual or agency at the hub. The Model calls on all elements of our society – government agencies and policy makers, medical and mental health services, the civil and criminal justice system, the education system, religious bodies and the media – to work proactively and collaboratively to accomplish effective intimate partner and family violence prevention and intervention functions. SCCBW works collaboratively in its policy work and capacity-building efforts in all training and technical assistance activities.

### Major Programmatic Areas

#### **Training:**

Since providing training is at the very heart of our mission, SCCBW dedicates its resources and focuses its efforts on providing the highest quality training to victim advocates and professionals from a broad range of disciplines who work with victims of violence against women and their children. Development of training events includes development of curriculum, materials and supplemental resources, including community-based and population-specific resources, for attendees.

In addition to general training function, special training projects include:

- **STOP Violence Against Women Technical Assistance Project for Deaf Women, Women with Disabilities and Older Victims of Violence Against Women.**  
Supported by the US Department of Justice, Violence Against Women Office, SCCBW has developed and will implement training and technical assistance materials and activities for STOP Violence Against Women Formula (VAWF) grantees and individual sub-grantees. The goal of training and technical assistance activities is to assist grantees to effectively change their organizational culture to enable them to create and implement community-based and driven outreach, prevention and intervention services and strategies for people with disabilities and older victims of violence. Our partners in this effort are the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Goldman Institute on Aging (San Francisco) and Disabilities Services ASAP, a program of Safe Place (Austin, TX).
- **Statewide Technical Assistance and Training for Shelter-Based Agencies Project.**  
SCCBW serves as a resource center and provides training and technical assistance to build the capacity of shelter-based domestic violence programs throughout California to meet the diverse needs of victims of domestic violence and their children, including their ability to be culturally and physically accessible to deaf victims and victims with disabilities.
- **Domestic Violence Counselor-Advocate Training (DV 101).**  
This comprehensive 40-hour training over 5 days meets the statutory educational requirements of the CA Evidence Code for client-counselor confidentiality. This training is generally offered 4 times each year in Southern California and may be conducted in other areas of the state or at a host agency upon request. In addition, SCCBW provides technical assistance to domestic violence programs offering the training through their agencies.

#### **Technical Assistance:**

SCCBW provides information, referral and detailed technical assistance accompanied by follow-up on a broad range of prevention and intervention issues cogent to violence against women to advocates, state agencies, community based agencies and professionals from diverse disciplines who work with victims of violence against women and their children. Technical assistance may be obtained by telephone or e-mail or on-site upon request. SCCBW maintains a comprehensive database of experts throughout the state and nationally who may be called upon for information and technical assistance.

#### **Clearinghouse Activities:**

SCCBW maintains an extensive library of publications, videos, curricula, reports, statistical and research information, journals, model policies and procedures and other resource materials on issues of intimate partner and family violence, including specialized resources pertinent to issues and services for deaf women and women with disabilities.

SCCBW's website, [www.sccb.org](http://www.sccb.org), is widely recognized for its ease of use and comprehensive content relevant to understanding and addressing the range of issues involved in intimate partner

and family violence. Of specific usefulness are “Hot Topics” – current major issues, stories and resources, Link/Resources and our Publication database.

**Public Policy:**

To insure that the best interests of victims of intimate partner violence are met, SCCBW works collaboratively with a broad base of coalitions, agencies and organizations to advocate for public policy change and development through legislative and regulatory channels.

## Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board

Contact: Kelly Brodie  
Executive Officer  
630 K Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-323-3432  
[kbrodie@boc.ca.gov](mailto:kbrodie@boc.ca.gov)

### INTRODUCTION

The Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board administers two major programs, the Victim Compensation Program (VCP) and the Government Claims (GC) Program. The VCP reimburses eligible crime victims for certain expenses incurred as the result of a crime: medical, mental health counseling, lost wages or support, relocation and/or funeral/burial. Additionally, the program oversees the administration of restitution fines and orders, as well as collections that generate revenue for the Restitution Fund for payments to victims.

### VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM

#### **Who Can Get Help?**

- Ø Anyone who suffers a physical injury or the threat of physical injury as a result of a crime in California.
- Ø California residents injured by crime or terrorism wherever it takes place.
- Ø Certain family members of the victim who are residents of the United States who, at the time of the crime:
  - Was the spouse, child, parents, sibling, grandparent or grandchild of the victim, or
  - Was living in the household of the victim, or
  - Individuals who lived with the victim at least two years in a relationship similar to a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, or grandchild of the victim, or
  - Is another family member of the victim, including the victim's fiancé (e), and witnessed the crime, or
  - Is the primary caretaker of a minor victim but was not the primary caretaker at the time of the crime.
  - Any of these individuals who are not residents of the United States may be eligible for mental health counseling only, for crimes that occur in California.
- Ø Anyone who accepts responsibility or pays for medical or funeral/burial/memorial expenses of the victim.
- Ø Anyone who assumes responsibility or pays for crime scene cleanup for a homicide that occurred in a residence.

#### **How Can I Get Help?**

- Ø Report the crime to law enforcement, Child Protective Services or Adult Protective services.
- Ø Cooperate reasonably with the police and court officials to arrest and prosecute the offender.
- Ø File a VCP application within one year of the crime or show good cause why it was not filed on time.
- Ø If the victim was under 18 years of age on the date of the crime, file an application before the victim's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday or show good cause why it was not filed on time.

- Ø Cooperate with the VCP or its representative(s) to make sure the information on your application is correct.

**How Do I Apply?**

- Ø You can fill out an application and send it to the VCP.
- Ø You can apply at your local Victim/Witness Assistance Center.
- Ø Someone from your local domestic violence shelter or rape crisis center can help you fill out an application.
- Ø You can call the VCP at 1-800-777-9229.
- Ø You can apply using the VCP web site ([www.boc.ca.gov](http://www.boc.ca.gov)).

## **Roster of Member Agencies and Organizations**

### **Arc California**

Contact: Laurie Shields  
Executive Director  
1225 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 590  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-552-6691  
[arcca@quiknet.com](mailto:arcca@quiknet.com)

### **Board of Prison Terms**

Contact: Katie James  
Victim Assistance Coordinator  
1515 K Street, Suite 600  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-327-5933  
TTY: 916-327-9018  
Toll-free: 1-866-278-9282  
[kjames@bpt.ca.gov](mailto:kjames@bpt.ca.gov)

### **California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA)**

Contact: Marybeth Carter  
Executive Director  
1215 K Street, Suite 1100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-446-2520  
[mb@calcasa.org](mailto:mb@calcasa.org)

### **California Coalition on Crime Against Persons With Disabilities**

Contact: Michael Dunne  
Chair  
1722 J Street, Suite 2  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-447-2237  
[mdunne@disabilityrights-cdr.org](mailto:mdunne@disabilityrights-cdr.org)

California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)

Contact: Janice Bullard  
Senior Law Enforcement Consultant  
1601 Alhambra Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-227-4887  
[jbullard@post.ca.gov](mailto:jbullard@post.ca.gov)

California Department of Aging, Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman

Contact: Gordon Migliore  
Program Manager  
State Long Term Care Ombudsman  
1600 K Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-323-6679  
[gmiglior@aging.ca.gov](mailto:gmiglior@aging.ca.gov)

California Department of Corrections, Office of Victim Services and Restitution

Contact: Sandi Menefee  
Assistant Director  
Office of Victim Services and Restitution  
P.O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001  
(916) 358-2436  
[smenefee@evalcomp.corr.ca.gov](mailto:smenefee@evalcomp.corr.ca.gov)

Contact: Rosemarie Munsey  
Victim Services Manager  
Office of Victim Services and Restitution  
P.O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001  
(916) 358-2436  
[rmunsey@evalcomp.corr.ca.gov](mailto:rmunsey@evalcomp.corr.ca.gov)

## California Department of Developmental Services

Contact: Emily Woolford  
Community Program Specialist II  
Street, Room 330 M.S. 3-22  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-657-2692  
[Ewoolfor@dds.ca.gov](mailto:Ewoolfor@dds.ca.gov)

## California Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services Bureau

Contact: Jenene Acosta  
Chief  
Adult Protective Services Bureau  
744 P Street, M.S. 19-96  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-229-0321  
[Jenene.Acosta@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Jenene.Acosta@dss.ca.gov)

## California District Attorney's Association

Contact: Kate Killeen  
Director  
Violence Against Women Project  
731 K Street, Third Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-443-2017  
[kkilleen@cdaa.org](mailto:kkilleen@cdaa.org)

## California Health and Human Services Agency, Crime Victims with Disabilities Initiative

Contact: Daniel D. Sorensen  
Department of Mental Health  
1600 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-651-9906  
[dsorensen@dmhhq.state.ca.us](mailto:dsorensen@dmhhq.state.ca.us)

## California Medical Training Center

Contact: Janet Heath  
Program Manager  
4800 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue,  
Suite 2200, Bldg. FSSB  
Sacramento, CA 95817  
916-734-3834  
[janet.heath@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu](mailto:janet.heath@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu)

## California State Library

Contact: Susan Hanks  
Research Librarian  
Information Services Section  
California Research Bureau  
914 Capitol Mall, Room 400  
P.O. Box 942837  
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001  
916-653-0661  
[shanks@library.ca.gov](mailto:shanks@library.ca.gov)

## California Youth Authority

Contact: Sharon Garcia  
Victims Services Specialist  
Office of Prevention and Victims Services  
4241 Williamsborough Dr., Suite 214  
Sacramento, CA 95823-2088  
916-262-1534  
[sgarcia@cya.ca.gov](mailto:sgarcia@cya.ca.gov)

## Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning

Contact: Kirby Everhart  
Chief  
Child and Youth Services Division  
1130 K Street, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-327-3687  
[kirby.everhart@ocjp.ca.gov](mailto:kirby.everhart@ocjp.ca.gov)

## Judicial Council of California

Contact: Honorable Barbara Kronlund  
Superior Court Commissioner  
San Joaquin County Superior Court and  
Vice-Chair  
Access & Fairness Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council  
475 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tracy, CA 95376  
209-831-5914  
[bak@courts.san-joaquin.ca.us](mailto:bak@courts.san-joaquin.ca.us)

## Office of the Attorney General, Crime and Violence Prevention Center

Contact: Peggy Osborn  
Program Manager  
Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention  
1300 I Street, Suite 1150  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-322-5295  
[Osbornp@hdcdojnet.state.ca.us](mailto:Osbornp@hdcdojnet.state.ca.us)

## Organization of Area Boards

Contact: Terry Bremer  
Executive Director  
1750 Creekside Oaks Dr., Suite 210  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
916-263-5780  
[terryb@oabdd.org](mailto:terryb@oabdd.org)

Contact: Melissa Corral  
1750 Creekside Oaks Dr., Suite 210  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
916-263-5780  
[Melissac@oabdd.org](mailto:Melissac@oabdd.org)

## State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Contact: Tony Anderson  
Deputy Director  
2000 O Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-322-5535  
[tony.anderson@dss.ca.gov](mailto:tony.anderson@dss.ca.gov)

## Statewide California Coalition for Battered Women

Contact: Linda Berger  
Executive Director  
3711 Long Beach Blvd. #718  
Long Beach, CA 90807  
562-981-1202  
Toll-free: 1-888-SCCBW-52 or 1-888-722-2952  
[linda@sccbaw.org](mailto:linda@sccbaw.org)

## State Independent Living Council (SILC)

Contact: Michael Collins  
Executive Director  
1600 K Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-445-0142  
[mcollins@calsilc.org](mailto:mcollins@calsilc.org)

## Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board

Contact: Kelly Brodie  
Executive Officer  
630 K Street 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-323-3432  
[kbrodie@voc.ca.gov](mailto:kbrodie@voc.ca.gov)