

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

BUREAU OF VICTIM SERVICES

OVERVIEW OF BVS

Tanishia G. Wright, Director



GEORGE GASCÓN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Bureau of Victim Services



“Helping Victims Become Survivors”



GEORGE GASCÓN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Elected November 3, 2020



MISSION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office will advance an effective, ethical, and racially equitable system of justice that protects the community, restores victims of crime, and honors the rights of the accused. We are a learning organization that believes in reduced incarceration and punishment except in circumstances in which it is proportional, in the community's interest, and serves a rehabilitative or restorative purpose.

BUREAU OF VICTIM SERVICES

THREE DIVISIONS TO ASSIST VICTIMS

1. Direct Services

Advocates provide assistance to crime victims in courthouses and law enforcement stations throughout Los Angeles County



2. Claims Verification Unit

Victim Compensation Assistance

3. Restitution Enhancement Program

Victim Restitution Assistance

Bureau of Victim Services

Administrative Headquarters

(626) 514-1300

1(800) 380-3811

Branch and Area Offices

- Airport (310) 727-6516
- Alhambra (626) 308-5417
- Antelope Valley (661) 974-7717
- Criminal Justice Center (213) 974-7490
- Compton (310) 603-7579
- East L.A. (323) 780-2045
- El Monte (626) 575-5565
- Inglewood (310) 419-6764
- Long Beach (562) 247-2068
- Norwalk (562) 807-7230
- Pasadena (626) 356-5783
- Pomona (909) 620-3381
- San Fernando (818) 898-2406
- Torrance (310) 222-3599
- Van Nuys (818) 374-2159
- West Covina (626) 813-3220

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

- Antelope Valley (SVB) (661) 471-1515
- Homicide Bureau (323) 890-5656
- Santa Clarita (661) 799-5155
- South L.A. (323) 820-6860
- Special Victims Bureau (562) 946-8233
- West Hollywood (310) 358-4057

Los Angeles Police Department Stations

- Hollywood (323) 871-1184
- Rampart (213) 483-6731
- Southeast (323) 754-8064
- Southwest (323) 296-8645
- South Bureau Homicide (323) 786-5151

Special Advocacy Programs

- Elder Abuse Division (213) 257-2304
- Family Violence Division (213) 257-2173
- Financial/Fraud & Cyber Crimes (213) 257-2443
- Hate and Target Crimes Division (213) 257-2443
- Human Trafficking Division (213) 974-2039

- Juvenile Advocacy Services (LB) (562) 247-2034
- Lifer & Post-Conviction Proceedings (213) 974-4110
- Realignment Victims Svc. (213) 893-7899
- Sex Crimes Division (213) 257-2054
- Community Violence Reduction
Cen (213) 257-2034 Com (310) 603-7127 Pom (909) 620-2027
- Victims' Rights Assistance
Cen (213) 257-2101 So. (562) 803-7107 No. (626) 813-3169
- Victim Services K9 Unit (213) 257-2044

**“How can we assist a crime victim
and their family?”**



TRAUMA INFORMED VICTIM SERVICES

The Office for Victims of Crime defines trauma informed, in part, as approaches delivered with an understanding of the vulnerabilities and experiences of trauma survivors, including the prevalence and physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma. Trauma-informed approaches place priority on restoring the survivor's feelings of safety, choice, and control.*



*<https://ovc.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh226/files/model-standards/6/glossary.html>

MANDATORY VICTIM SERVICES

Penal Code § 13835.5

- Crisis Intervention
- Emergency Assistance
- Resource & Referral Counseling
- Victim Compensation Assistance
- Return of Property
- Orientation to the Criminal Justice System
- Court Escort/Support
- Case Status/Disposition Information
- Restitution Assistance





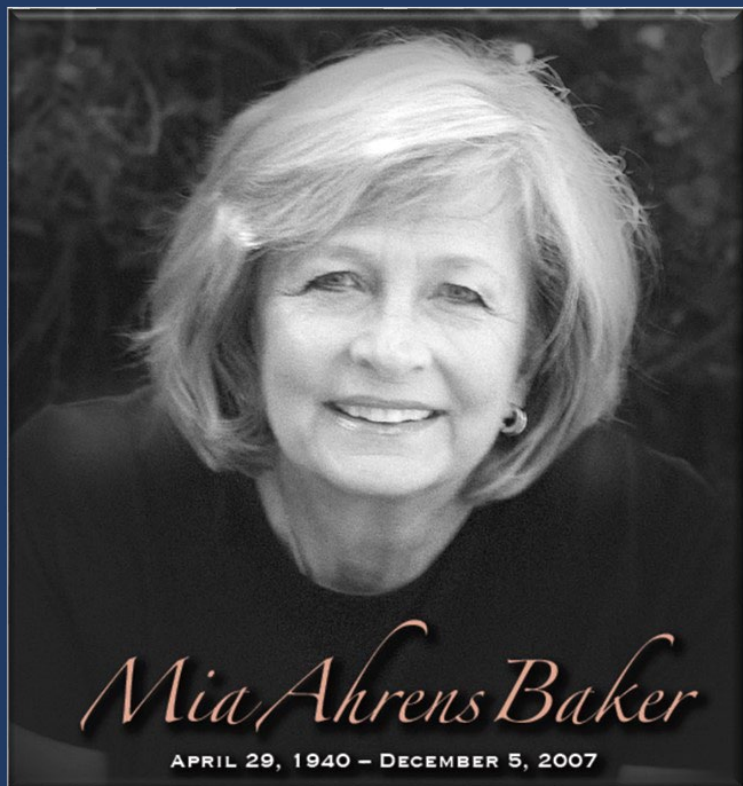
OPTIONAL VICTIM SERVICES

Penal Code § 13835.5

- **Creditor/Employer Intervention**
- **Restitution Information & Referral**
- **Notification Court Calendar Changes**
- **Funeral Arrangement Assistance**
- **Temporary Restraining Order Information**
- **Witness Protection Assistance/Relocation**

BVS Fact

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES EMPOWERING VICTIMS



Mia Baker was a pioneer in victim advocacy. In 1977, she and a group of volunteers began providing victim services through the District Attorney's Office. This group established what is known today as the Bureau of Victim Services.

Throughout her career Mia created legislation that benefited Victims' and their families. Her efforts also helped victim assistance programs through the state of California. In addition, she wrote significant portions of California's victim restitution laws.

In 1985, Mia became an employee of the District Attorney's Office and served as the first Director for the Bureau of Victim Services. She was instrumental in developing the program and helped it to grow to be one of the largest in the United States.

BVS Fact

- In 1984 the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office established an annual Holiday Giving Drive to bring gifts and much needed cheer to victims, especially young children, who were seriously injured and traumatized by crime or lost a parent to homicide. The funds to purchase gifts are raised from DA personnel as well as outside agencies.
- The Bureau of Victim Services (BVS) organizes the Holiday Giving Drive in a joint effort with the Bureau of Investigation. Each year DA personnel nominate families they have worked with throughout the year.
- Members of the BVS purchase toys and clothing to match the wish list of the children from each family. Bureau Investigators personally deliver our holiday gifts to crime victims in the middle of December. Approximately 200 families, with as many as 500 children, are selected each year to receive gifts.

Preparing Gifts for the Holiday Giving Drive the Holiday Giving Drive





LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



37th Holiday Giving Drive

MAKE YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS PAYABLE TO:

California Community Foundation
c/o Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
Bureau of Victim Services
1000 S. Fremont Avenue, Unit 36, Building A9E, Suite E9150, Alhambra, CA 91803

CONTACT:

Alex Reynoso • (800) 380-3811 • areynoso@da.lacounty.gov

DONATE ONLINE:

<http://calfund.org/District-Attorneys-Victim-Assistance-Fund>

Your contribution helps provide gifts for children and others victimized by crime.



BVS K-9 Unit



Skippy, Lennox, and Nora

BVS K-9 Unit

- ▶ Help child victims and other vulnerable victims of crime during interviews, preparation for testimony, and testimony at preliminary hearings and trials
- ▶ Lessen the stress and trauma of courthouse environment
- ▶ Calm victim and have positive interactions
- ▶ Provide support without bias
- ▶ Comfort family during testimony if outside the courtroom
- ▶ Memory of facility dog, “The day I met Skippy,” or “I was able to say what happened to me because I had Nora by my side”

Goal for Facility Dog Team



SELF CARE ISN'T SELFISH

The act of taking care of your mental, physical, and emotional well-being

- Can help reduce stress and enhance your quality of life
- Research shows that, in addition to keeping you healthy, self-care can also improve your overall well-being
- Helps you manage the daily stresses in your life, tricky interpersonal relationships, and uncertain future.



Tanishia G. Wright, Director
Administrative Office
1000 S. Fremont Avenue
Unit 36, Bldg. A9E, Suite 9150
Alhambra, CA 91803
Toll Free 1 (800) 380-3811
<https://da.lacounty.gov/victims>
twright@da.lacounty.gov