

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Agenda Number:**

**Prepared on:** 07/17/03  
**Department:** District Attorney  
**Budget Unit:** 021  
**Agenda Date:** 08/12/03  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Thomas W. Sneddon, Jr.  
District Attorney

**STAFF:** Marnie B. Pinsker

**CONTACT:** District Attorney Assistant Director, x2304

**SUBJECT:** Resolution extending funeral/burial, domestic violence, sexual assault relocation and crime scene clean up emergency funds for Crime Victims

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

a) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to execute an Agreement with the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Program (VCP) to sustain expedited payment of funeral/burial expenses, crime scene clean-up and emergency domestic violence and sexual assault relocation expenses.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with actions required by law or by routine business necessity.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

Since FY 87-88, the District Attorney has contracted with the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Program formerly named the State Board of Control (SBOC) to verify claims for victims of crime to obtain reimbursement for losses suffered as a result of a serious crime. Claims Specialists, housed in the North and South County offices, have the ability to authorize payment of victim claims if they are deemed eligible for the program based upon the State statutes and regulations.

Effective January 1999, the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Program established an agreement with Santa Barbara County which enabled the District Attorney's Victim Witness Assistance Program to provide immediate payment of a victim's funeral/burial expense through a County Trust Account. This has alleviated the family's financial stress often created by the sudden death of a relative, when providers are unable to wait for payment of a victim's bills until Victim Compensation Program reimbursement claims are paid. Effective July 2000 the Victim Compensation Program expanded this effort to provide domestic violence victims with emergency funds for relocation expenses, consistent with passage of AB 606. With the passage of AB 1019 effective January 2002, the County was

given additional authority to reimburse eligible crime victims for crime scene clean up and emergency relocation expenses emanating from a sexual assault.

Through this agreement, the Victim Witness Assistance Program Claims Staff process eligible claims and authorize immediate payment of approved Victim's Funeral and Burial expenses, Crime Scene Clean Up, Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault Relocation expenses from the local Trust Account directly to the service provider and/or the victim. Victims of Crime Compensation Claims staff process claims with VCP to replenish the revolving Trust Account. Claims are evaluated per Statutes and Regulations and claims do not exceed the amounts authorized in State Statute.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

This program sustains our ability to assist victims by providing immediate payment of expenses, up to the amounts authorized and which meet the laws and guidelines of VCP.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

VCP has allocated \$50,000 to Santa Barbara County, deposited in a Trust Account to finance immediate payment of verified claims. Funeral/burial expenses are limited to \$7,500 per claim, \$1,000 for crime scene clean up, while a maximum of \$2,000 may be utilized for domestic violence or sexual assault victim relocation costs. All trust account claims for expedited victim expenses are reimbursed by the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims Program.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return an executed Resolution to Marnie Pinsker, x2304.