

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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District Attorney



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APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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******* PRESS RELEASE *******

January 24, 2017

Re: Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Outreach Program

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that the District Attorney's Office has received a grant from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to fund the Elder and Dependent Adult Outreach Program. This program will provide vital services to seniors, dependent adults, and persons with disabilities who are crime victims.

Crimes against elders and dependent adults are prevalent in our community, although often undetected or unreported. These crimes include physical abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, psychological abuse and neglect. They are characterized by any kind of treatment resulting in physical harm, pain, exploitation or mental suffering to the victim.

"I have long felt that crimes committed against vulnerable victims are amongst the worst crimes imaginable and those with disabilities or seniors who become victims of crime often suffer traumatic and long lasting consequences." said District Attorney Dudley.

Sadly, crimes against elders and dependent adults are dramatically on the rise. According to statistics obtained from the Santa Barbara County Adult Protective Services, there were 1,596 reports of elder abuse during 2014/2015 and 990 reports of dependent adult abuse.

It is the goal of this grant to attack this fast growing injustice.

Funding from this grant will be used to educate the community in identifying crimes against elders and dependent adults, to make victims aware of the services provided by the District Attorney's victim witness program, and to provide a point of contact for concerned citizens and family members who are unsure of where to turn for help. Grant staff will also conduct in-service training for law enforcement and service providers on how to better serve this vulnerable population.

For information regarding this program, or to schedule a presentation on Crimes Targeting Seniors and Dependent Adults, contact the District Attorney's Elder Abuse Hotline at (805) 568-2442. Experienced staff can provide training in recognizing signs of abuse, protecting financial assets from scammers, and how to report suspected abuse.

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