

GENERAL OFFICE MEMORANDUM 19-025

TO: ALL DISTRICT ATTORNEY PERSONNEL

FROM:  JOSEPH P. ESPOSITO
Chief Deputy District Attorney

SUBJECT: BUREAU OF VICTIM SERVICES (BVS) ASSISTANCE IN
RESPONSE TO SENATE BILL 1437 RESENTENCING PETITIONS

DATE: MARCH 11, 2019

This is the fifth memorandum in a series of General Office Memoranda (GOM) regarding Senate Bill (SB) 1437's changes to accomplice liability for murder. This GOM will outline the Bureau of Victim Services (BVS) responsibilities related to Senate Bill 1437 resentencing petitions to ensure uniformity in notifications to next of kin.

GOM 18-173 provides the following:

As required by Marsy's Law and as early as practicable, the assigned deputy shall contact the homicide victim's family to notify them of the petition and explain the process. The assigned deputy shall consult with the Bureau of Victim Services prior to contacting the next of kin to have a Victim Services Representative (VSR) assist in the notification. The assigned deputy shall maintain contact with the homicide victim's family and meet with them as necessary.

Four VSRs have been assigned to assist in those petitions *that have been determined to be eligible for relief*: when the court issues an Order to Show Cause (OSC). These VSRs, who are experienced advocates, will primarily assist in the notifications to victims; assist victims requesting Marsy's Law rights; and advocate for victims' rights to be honored by criminal justice personnel whenever possible.

The VSRs will be trained to answer general questions about the new law, but will ultimately refer victims back to the assigned deputy for more in-depth questions. VSRs will not be able to research victim contact information. Deputies shall consult with their local District Attorney Investigators for assistance in researching and securing victim contact information.

The assigned VSRs and the general locations they will serve are as follows:

1. Ms. Tracey Ruby
 - a. Central Region – Criminal Justice Center, Hall of Justice
 - b. 210 W. Temple Street, Suite 12-514, Los Angeles, CA 90012;
 - c. (213) 974-9882; TRuby@da.lacounty.gov

2. Ms. Allison Roberts
 - a. Assist with Central Region – Criminal Justice Center, Hall of Justice
 - b. LPP (Lifer and Post-Conviction Proceedings) – Hall of Records: 320 W. Temple Street, Suite 540, Los Angeles, CA 90012;
 - c. (213) 893-0486; ARoberts@da.lacounty.gov

3. Ms. Saeko Tew (speaks Japanese)
 - a. North County Region – Antelope Valley, Alhambra, Pasadena, Pomona, San Fernando, Van Nuys
 - b. 1427 W. Covina Parkway, Room 105, West Covina, CA 91790;
 - c. (626) 813-3169; STew@da.lacounty.gov

4. Mr. Alberto Herrera (speaks Spanish)
 - a. South County Region – Airport, Compton, Long Beach, Norwalk, Torrance
 - b. 7500 Imperial Hwy, Room 324, Downey, CA 90242;
 - c. (562) 803-7107; AHerrera@da.lacounty.gov

A Marsy's Law letter template will be forthcoming and will be available in PIMS. Deputies will be notified when the letter becomes available.

For any questions regarding BVS Support, please contact BVS Director Michele Daniels at (626) 927-2500.

mjv