

Crime Victim's Bill of Rights* ***You have the Right to:***

- Be treated fairly and with respect to your dignity and privacy.
- Be reasonably protected from the accused offender and from verbal, written, implied or physical harassment or threat.
- Be notified of court proceedings upon request.
- Attend all public court proceedings related to the offense, unless the court determines that your testimony would be materially affected if you heard other testimony at the trial.
- Confer with the prosecuting attorney upon request.
- Request the court to order restitution.
- Prepare a victim impact statement about the crime's emotional, physical and financial impact on you for inclusion in the pre-sentencing investigative report.
- Request and receive information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment and release of the offender.
- Receive information and referrals to programs that can assist you.

*adapted from the Crime Victim's Bill of Rights

What Victim/Witness Can Do To Help:

- Explanation of rights
- Assistance with court ordered restitution
- Case status/plea information
- Property return assistance (if recovered and used as evidence)
- Liaison with prosecuting attorney handling the case
- Liaison with Probation Department
- Determination of loss/ Victim Impact Report assistance

Important information to keep:

Defendants First/Last Name: _____

District Attorney's (DA) Case #: _____

Reporting Agency: _____

Name of Advocate: _____

When you receive a Statement of Loss form from the Probation Department, please sign it and send it back with an attached receipt or documentation of replacement value. This will facilitate getting restitution ordered.

Losses Associated with the Crime:

- Monetary losses
- Damage done
- Stolen items
- Estimated cost of repair or replacement (can find online)

Important Phone Numbers and Websites

Victim/Witness: (805)781-5821
toll-free (866)781-5821
www.slocounty.ca.gov/Victim_Witness

Probation: (805) 781-5300
[www.slocounty.ca.gov/
San_Luis_Obispo_Probation_Department.htm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/San_Luis_Obispo_Probation_Department.htm)

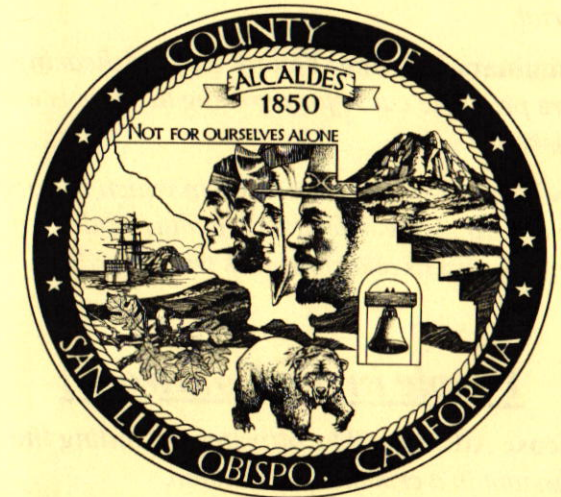
Program for Victim Notification of Offender Releases (VINE):

Service Number: (877) 411-5588
TTY: (866) 847-1298
www.vinelink.com

San Luis Obispo County
District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance

1035 Palm Street
Courthouse Annex Room 384
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

The Victim/Witness Assistance Center Office of the District Attorney San Luis Obispo County



Information and Assistance for Victims of Property Crime

Court Terms

Arraignment: A court session at which a defendant is informed of the charge(s) and enters a plea of guilty or not guilty.

Pretrial Conference/Hearing: A hearing before a trial to facilitate settlement of a case.

Trial Setting Conference: A meeting between the judge, the deputy district attorney, and the defense attorney, setting a case for trial.

Pre-Preliminary Hearing (Felony only) or Readiness Conference: A hearing to confirm that everyone—witnesses, police, attorneys, etc. is ready for trial.

Preliminary Hearing (Felony only): A hearing where probable cause for pursuing the case is established.

Jury Trial: A legal proceeding in which the decision regarding the defendant's guilt is made by a group of citizens and concludes with a verdict.

People in the Courtroom

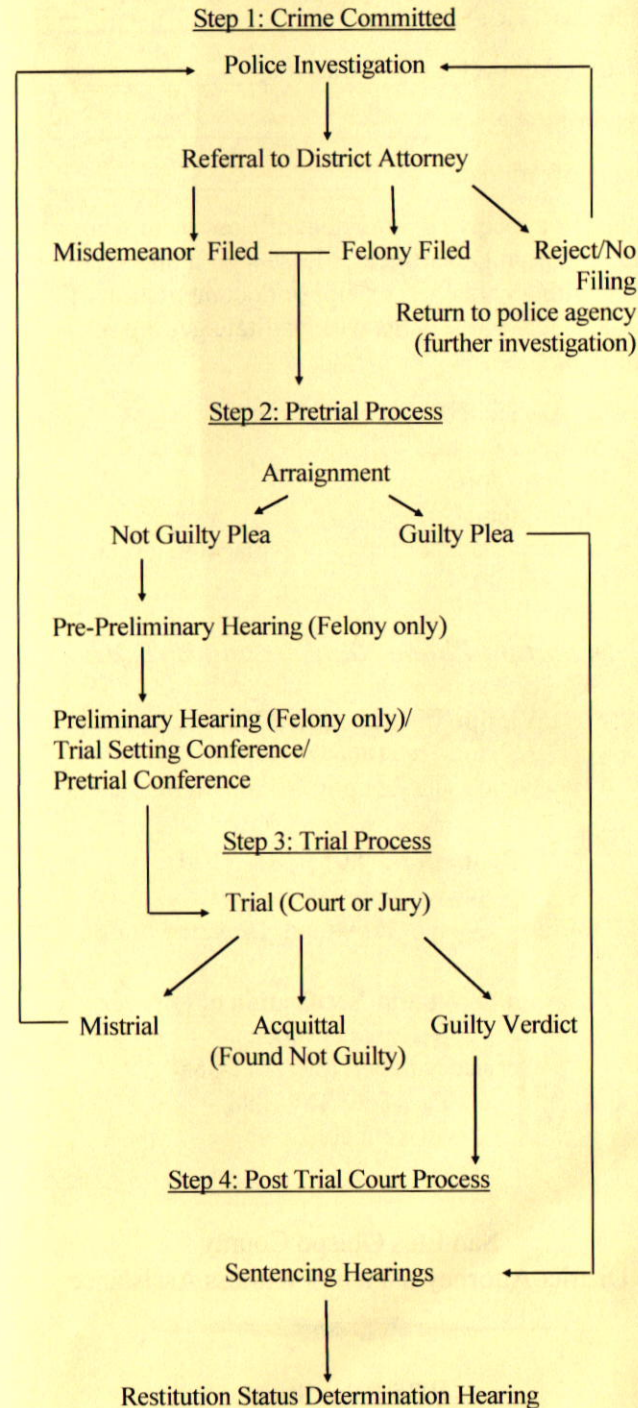
Defense Attorney: The attorney defending the defendant in a criminal prosecution.

Judge: An official with the authority and responsibility to preside in a court and make legal rulings.

Prosecuting Attorney: The attorney representing the People of the State of California in a criminal prosecution.

Victim Advocate: The person who provides information and assistance to victims or witnesses during the court process.

The Judicial Process



Criminal Justice System Terms

Arrest Warrant: A court order that directs a law enforcement office to arrest the person identified in the warrant.

Felony: A crime sufficiently serious to be considered punishable by death or incarceration in county jail or state prison.

In Screening: Under review by a deputy district attorney to determine if there is enough evidence to prosecute a case forwarded by an investigating agency.

Misdemeanor: A criminal offense, less serious than a felony, punishable by a fine and/or a county jail sentence of one year or less.

Plea Agreement: Negotiation between the defendant and the prosecutor in which the defendant agrees to plead guilty or "no contest".

Property Crime: Non-injury crime to a person's property (anything owned by a person or entity).

Restitution: Money paid to victims by the offender to compensate for harm or damage done.

Victim: Someone who has suffered as a result of another person's actions.

Victim Impact Report: A report used to record the losses to a victim as a result of a crime. Used to help determine restitution owed a victim.