Marsy’s Law provides legal rights for crime victims. It guarantees that crime victims have the right to be treated with respect and dignity; the right to information and notification about the criminal justice process; the right to reasonable, timely, and effective access to the criminal justice system; and the right to a fair and equal opportunity to participate in the criminal justice process. In California, victim rights are outlined in the California Victim Bill of Rights, which is part of the judicial code (California Code of Regulations, Title 12, Chapter 12). The California Department of Justice also provides additional resources for crime victims and their families.

To learn more about Marsy’s Law and your rights, visit the Marsy’s Law website at marsyslaw.org. You can also contact your local Victim Witness Unit or the California Victim’s Resource Network at 877-433-9069.

For more information on local victim services, visit victims.ca.gov/localhelp.aspx. To report hate crimes, visit oag.ca.gov/hatecrimes.

If you are a victim of a crime, you have the right to report the crime to the police or other law enforcement agency. You also have the right to seek compensation for medical expenses, lost wages, and other expenses related to the crime. If you are a victim of a hate crime, you have the right to file a complaint with the California Department of Justice. To report a hate crime, visit justice.ca.gov/crs.

In California, there are several agencies that provide victim services, including the California Department of Justice, the California Victim’s Resource Network, and local Victim Witness Units. To find the victim services available in your area, visit victims.ca.gov/victims/localhelp.aspx.
California Attorney General

Hate Crimes

California statutes define hate crimes as offenses motivated by any of the following: perceived race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or medical condition. These crimes are punishable by increased penalties.

California statute 422.62 defines a hate crime as an offense committed against a person or property because of the actual or perceived characteristic of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or medical condition.

Hate crimes can occur in any form of violence, including but not limited to: threats, vandalism, physical assault, or death.

The California Department of Justice provides guidance and resources to assist in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.

For more information, please visit the California Department of Justice website: oag.ca.gov/hatecrimes

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