



**County of San Bernardino**  
**Office of the District Attorney**  
**JASON ANDERSON, District Attorney**

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## **Operational Agreement**

This Operational Agreement stands as evidence that the **San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office** and **Desert Sanctuary, Inc.** intend to work together toward the mutual goal of providing maximum available assistance for crime victims residing in San Bernardino County through the Victim/Witness (VW) Assistance Program in San Bernardino County.

Each participating agency believes that implementation of the Victim/Witness (VW) Assistance Program, as described herein, will further this goal. To this end, each agency agrees to participate in the program, if funded and implemented, by coordinating and providing services outlined herein.

### **Program Background**

The District Attorney's Victim/Witness (VW) Assistance Program provides mandatory services under PC 13835.5 to victims of all crime types. The services include: crisis intervention, emergency assistance, resource and referral assistance, emotional support, victim of crime claim assistance, property return, orientation to the criminal justice system, court escort, case status/disposition, notification of family and friends, employer notification/intervention and restitution assistance. Presentations and training for criminal justice agencies and public presentations are also mandated services through this program.

### **Roles**

The **San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office** the Victim/Witness (VW) Assistance Program will provide the following services:

- Coordinate services and provide referrals and emergency assistance to crime victims of the Victim/Witness (VW) Assistance Program cases
- Assist victims by providing the California Victim Compensation Board (Cal VCB) program application and assisting them through the application process
- Provide to crime victims an orientation to the criminal justice system, case status and disposition, court escort and court support, and restitution assistance
- Provide training to staff on a regular basis and that said training will be expanded to include all components of the program
- Participation in meetings as needed to discuss issues of interagency coordination and information to ensure appropriate delivery of services for victims of the Victim/Witness (VW) Assistance Program cases.

### **Desert Sanctuary, Inc will coordinate the following services:**

- Project staff of both agencies being readily available for service provision
- Meetings as needed to discuss common issues, clarify working relationships, enhance methods to ensure quality services, and identify additional services that could offer increased benefit to our mutual clients

**Desert Sanctuary, Inc will provide the following domestic violence services:**

- 24-hour crisis intervention, advocacy, outreach services, counseling, emergency and transitional shelter, and prevention education
- Domestic violence educational materials (poster, brochures, flyers) to be distributed to victims of domestic violence
- Training and technical assistance that will impact the quality of services in our communities
- Refer victim of domestic violence and their children for appropriate services
- Share information and serve as a resource to provide the best possible services to victims of domestic violence and their children

**Point of Contact**

Peggy Fries, Executive Director  
Desert Sanctuary, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1781  
Barstow, CA. 92312  
760-256-3733

**Compensation**

No compensation is associated with this Agreement.

**Term**

This agreement will be effective beginning July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2027, or until otherwise modified by written consent of all involved parties.

**Approval**

We, the undersigned, have read and agree with the terms of the Operational Agreement.



Peggy Fries, Executive Director  
Desert Sanctuary, Inc.

  
Date

San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office  
District Attorney Jason Anderson

  
Date