

Appendix A

SURVIVOR VOICES REPORT

Appendix A

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Question Category 1: Marsy's Rights/Victim's Rights

In California we have the Victim's Bill of Rights or Marsy's Law that provides victims of crime certain rights that include fair treatment, access to information and input, and notice on the outcomes of the case.

- a. Did anyone explain crime victim rights or Marsy's Rights to you as a crime survivor?
- b. If so, who? Did you understand those rights? Did you know how to exercise those rights?
- c. Did you know what to do if your rights were not implemented or violated?
- d. How did this affect your experience working with a DA's office?
- e. What would be the best way to get this information (written, verbal, video recording, website, text)?
What could have been done better?

Question Category 2: Compensation

In California we have the California Victim's Compensation Board (CalVCB) which provides reimbursement to victims/survivors of violent crime to aid in recovery. Expenses like medical, mental health, dental, funeral and burial, crime scene clean-up, lost wages, relocation, and home safety improvements can be covered. The program requires cooperation with law enforcement (except in DV, HT and SA cases) and no contribution to the crime (mutual combat, in the act of breaking a law) to qualify.

- a. Were you offered Cal VCB, and did you understand how to access and use it?
- b. Did you apply for Cal VCB? If yes, did you qualify? If so, what categories of expenses?

If no, why not?

What expenses did you have because of your victimization that were not covered or you could not manage?

- d. Did you have insurance, or other financial resources to help (medical insurance, workman's comp, sick leave, go-fund me, other)?
- e. What financial resources would have been helpful to you?

Appendix A (cont.)

Question Category 3: Information and Engagement

Crime victims have the right to receive information about their case including arrest/release of the defendant, charges filed/declined, pre-trial disposition, notice of all public proceedings including parole or post-conviction release proceedings, outcome of the case, and sentencing recommendations.

- a. Were you kept up to date on the criminal process in your case? If so, by whom (attorney, victim advocate, other)?
- b. Were you offered this information in your primary language (if other than English)?
- c. Did you understand the information explained or presented to you? Did you ask questions?
- d. Were you able to give input about your wishes or how the crime impacted you?
- e. What could have been done better to include you in the processes of your case?

Question Category 4: Restitution

All survivors who suffer financial losses because of crime have the right to seek and secure restitution from the person who caused the harm. Restitution should be ordered in every case, regardless of the sentence or disposition imposed.

- a. Was restitution explained to you in your case? If so, by whom (attorney, advocate, other)?
- b. Was restitution ordered in your case? If so, did you receive restitution (all, some, none)?
- c. If not, was it explained why?
- d. If you did not receive restitution, were there expenses you never recovered? How did not getting restitution ordered or paid affect you?
- e. What would make restitution more accessible and effective?

Appendix A (cont.)

Question Category 5: Survivor Services 10 minutes

Every survivor has a different experience with the criminal justice system. The goal of victim services is to support the survivor through the criminal justice system and assist them in accessing the services and resources to recover and heal. We want to learn more about what survivors need and want in the aftermath of a violent crime.

- a. How did the crime affect you (emotionally, physically, financially, other)?
- b. How long did the impact of the crime last (weeks, months, years, still affecting you)?
- c. What was the most important need immediately after the crime event (money, information, emotional support, other)?
- d. What was most helpful to you after the crime event? What was the least helpful?
- e. If you had the resources and power to provide survivors anything they needed after a crime, what would you give them?