



difficult domestic violence cases handled by the Office. Efforts are multi-faceted, including specialized vertical prosecution, multi-agency state and federal task force participation, victim support services, legislative initiatives, law enforcement training, and community outreach as described below.

CHILD ABUSE PROSECUTION SECTION

The City Attorney’s Office handles physical and sexual child abuse and neglect matters primarily through its specialized Child Abuse Prosecution Section, in which experienced prosecutors vertically prosecute all cases of violence against children. Each individual case is assigned, from the outset, to a team comprised of a prosecutor, victim advocate, and an investigator. Skilled and dedicated victim advocates work with prosecutors to provide support to child victims, witnesses, and their families. Their combined efforts ensure better conviction rates and stricter sentencing, while providing needed resources and aid to victims of child abuse.

The efforts of the Office go beyond prosecution. The Office of the City Attorney advocates for additional support, including financial assistance for child victims and witnesses, through the Los Angeles City Attorney Victim Assistance Program.

CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

The City Attorney launched an important initiative to address the issue of children in our community who are exposed to community and domestic violence. “Through Their Eyes” is a comprehensive initiative, aimed at assuring that the professionals of the criminal justice system are trauma-informed, and thus better able to recognize and properly address children who are exposed to trauma as a result of their exposure to violence.

Law enforcement and prosecutors have frequent encounters with traumatized children. Many of these children encounter the criminal justice system as direct victims or witnesses to violence, and some as perpetrators. It’s important that law enforcement and the criminal justice system recognize these children as survivors of trauma, in order to intervene and reduce the potential negative impact (re-traumatization) of the system on them.

We have conducted a series of ongoing trainings to help staff understand the effect of exposure to violence and the impact of violence on child victims and witnesses.

This helps to achieve the goal of a systemic change and ensure that all members of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement officers, social workers, prosecutors and relevant staff, work in a trauma informed manner.

CHILDREN EXPOSED TO GUN VIOLENCE The REACH Team™

In the Fall of 2018 and through all of 2019, the City Attorney launched the Children Exposed to Gun Violence (CEGV™) in the community of Watts, in South Los Angeles. In partnership with the Los Angeles Police Department and the non-profit Children’s Institute, we put together a crisis response team called the REACH Team™, aimed to ensure children and families exposed to gun violence receive appropriate and timely crisis intervention and support services through Children’s Institute and partner organizations. As a part of the program, the L.A. City Attorney’s Office and Children’s Institute will regularly conduct community outreach within Watts schools, housing developments, community organizations and non-profits. Children and families in Watts who have been exposed to gun violence in the past can also reach out for support.

The REACH Team also provides care packages, and trauma therapy for up to six sessions. Children who need long term services are referred in house to Children’s Institute. The families are also assisted with other needs through resources and referrals. In 2020, CEGV™ expanded to all of Southeast Division of LAPD.

PARTNERSHIP WITH STUART HOUSE – CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASES

The City Attorney’s Office partners with the UCLA Rape Treatment Center and Stuart House on child sexual abuse cases. Stuart House is a nationally recognized multi-disciplinary center that was created to address the needs of children who have been sexually abused. Its purpose is to serve as a one-stop location for child sexual assault victims, from their initial interview with law enforcement and prosecutors, to comprehensive treatment, including long term therapy services. Stuart House is a warm, child and family-friendly environment intended to make victims and their families as comfortable as possible throughout the process. Victims are interviewed by a social worker, who asks questions in a non-leading way, to allow the child to disclose as much detail about the abuse as possible. The child is provided an



acute or non-acute medical exam if necessary at the nearby Rape Treatment Center. Every child, whether a criminal case is filed or not, is given the opportunity to receive cost-free counseling by therapists who are experts in treating child sexual abuse.

Currently, the Los Angeles Police Department has eight full-time detectives housed and working on cases at Stuart House. The District Attorney has five full-time prosecutors assigned to handle felony child sexual abuse cases at Stuart House, and the City Attorney's Office has two prosecutors working full-time with Stuart House to handle misdemeanor child sexual abuse cases. In addition, DCFS currently has two full-time social workers assigned to handle the child protection aspect of the cases. Trained advocates from Stuart House work with the victims and their families to help them through the court process. They have a small mock courtroom to help kids know what to expect when they go to court.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM

The Neighborhood School Safety Program (NSSP) is a comprehensive crime reduction strategy that promotes a safe environment in neighborhoods surrounding schools and in the routes students travel to and from school. The program centers around addressing environmental concerns, collaborating with the participating school principals and parents to address safety concerns, and implementing innovative approaches to deter quality of life crimes occurring in the community that impact the schools' safety. During the 2019 school year, 53 cases were prosecuted involving crimes that impacted student safety, and a total of 54 schools were added to the Program.

TEEN COURT

As part of the City Attorney's Office Neighborhood Prosecutor Program, locally assigned prosecutors work closely with LAUSD personnel, Los Angeles County Juvenile Probation officers, and the Los Angeles County Superior Court to handle actual juvenile criminal offenses in a courtroom setting as an alternative to juveniles appearing in delinquency juvenile court. Once a juvenile agrees to have his case heard before the Teen Court, a sitting Los Angeles Superior Court judge presides over the proceedings. The juvenile must bring a parent or guardian to the proceedings, which are held at a school site other than the juvenile's home school. The students participating in Teen Court act as jurors on the case and are allowed

to ask questions of the defendant and his guardian.

After the case is presented by both sides, the students deliberate, under the guidance of the neighborhood prosecutor or another volunteer attorney, as to the guilt or innocence of the juvenile and what sentence they think she/he should receive. If the judge agrees with the "jury," the youth is sentenced to the Teen Court's recommendations and must adhere to the terms and conditions or face a violation of his Teen Court probationary conditions.

Teen Court is located at many high schools, but originated at Dorsey High School with Los Angeles County Superior Court Presiding Judge David Wesley, who is committed to keeping youth out of the court system. This program is beneficial, because it allows the juvenile justice system to focus its resources on higher risk offenders and educates the public on how the court operates.

TRUANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM

In 2002, the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney created the Truancy Prevention Program to address the problems of truant students. Through letters, brochures, presentations and hearings, the program teaches parents of their legal responsibility to ensure that their children attend school.

Truancy Prevention staff also support the efforts of the Los Angeles Unified School District at School Attendance Review Teams (SART) and School Attendance Review Boards (SARB). Similarly, Truancy Prevention staff work with the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles School Police Department to conduct community outreach forums and individual family outreach.

Since its inception, the Truancy Prevention Program (TPP) has educated over 349,601 families about the importance of attending school and the legal consequences for parents for failing to send their child to school. The program's letters have directed 51,888 families to attend truancy prevention presentations. Approximately 5,877 families were referred for further City Attorney intervention, including one-on-one meetings. TPP Staff have also served as panelists at approximately 1,123 SARB hearings. To date, 144 parents have been prosecuted under the Education and Penal Codes. If parents are prosecuted, they can have their case dismissed by ensuring their child's attendance.



During the 2018-2019 school year, TPP implemented truancy prevention efforts at the following schools:

North Hollywood Division:

James Madison Middle School
Sun Valley Magnet School

Van Nuys Division

Robert Fulton College Preparatory School
Sylvan Park Elementary School

Foothill Division:

Arminta Street Elementary School
Pacoima Middle School
Richard E. Byrd Middle School
Haddon Avenue Elementary School

Mission Division:

Francisco Sepulveda Middle School

West Valley Division:

James A. Mulholland Middle School
Bassett Street Elementary School

Newton Division:

Estrella Elementary School
Forty-Ninth Street Elementary School

Topanga Division:

John A. Sutter Middle School
Stanley Mosk Elementary School

Harbor Division:

Richard Henry Dana Middle School

Hollenbeck Division:

Griffith STEAM Magnet Middle School
Sheridan Street Elementary School
Second Street Elementary School
Robert L. Stevenson Preparatory School
Breed Street Elementary School
Christopher Dena Elementary School
Malabar Street Elementary School

Southeast Division:

96th Street Elementary School
Bret Hart Preparatory Middle School
Mervyn Dymally High School
109th Street Elementary School
Grape Street Elementary School

Southwest Division:

Angeles Mesa Elementary School
Audubon Middle School
James A. Foshay Learning Center (K-12)
John Muir Middle School Middle School
Thomas Bradley Global Awareness Magnet School
Twenty-Fourth Street Elementary School

77th Division:

La Salle Elementary School
Normandie Avenue Elementary School
Horace Mann-UCLA Community School- Middle School

Rampart Division:

John Liechty Middle School

Olympic Division:

Berendo Middle School
Magnolia Avenue Elementary School

The goal of TPP is to keep children in school, not to prosecute parents. Prosecution will be a tool of last resort, when efforts to educate and assist the family have failed.

GANG AND GUN PROSECUTION SECTION

The Gang and Gun Prosecution Section (GGPS) is responsible for the city-wide prosecution of gang and gun crimes. The Section is responsible for the vertical prosecution, from filing to appeal, of firearm-related crimes, including possession of loaded and concealed firearms by prohibited persons, brandishing, assault and discharge, assault weapons, gun storage violations, and transactional crimes involving a firearm. The Section also vertically prosecutes gang-related misdemeanor crimes, as well as graffiti and vandalism crimes. In addition, the GGPS works in partnership with multi-agency law enforcement teams, such as the CLEAR (Community Law Enforcement and Recovery) program. GGPS also administers the Gang Alternative Sentencing and Removal Petition Programs, as well as supports the Gun Violence Prevention Coordinator.

HEARING PROGRAM

The Los Angeles City Attorney's Hearing Program offers an innovative approach to handling matters in which a crime has occurred, but criminal prosecution may not be the best way to address the problem. In some minor child abuse and neglect matters, cases are assigned to hearing officers who review the facts. They educate participants as to what constitutes



child abuse, admonish respondents about the consequences of their behavior, and make referrals to a variety of services, including parenting classes, drug and alcohol treatment programs, and anger management programs. The intervention of hearing officers in these matters may prevent subsequent offenses against children.

In 2019, there were 367 child abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and exploitation matters referred to the City Attorney's Office Hearing Program, after review by an attorney for filing consideration.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Los Angeles City Attorney's Victim Assistance Program is a State grant-funded program that assists victims of crime by providing state mandated services pursuant to Penal Code section 13835.5. These services include crisis intervention, court support, resource referrals and assistance to victims in filing State of California Victims of Crime Compensation Applications. The program is funded by the State of California Restitution Fund, which is financed from fines and penalty assessments imposed on convicted criminals.

There are 19 Victim Service Coordinators located in branch offices throughout the City of Los Angeles, 17 of which are located directly in Los Angeles Police Department Divisions.

In 2019, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Program assisted 18,685 new victims of crime and assisted in the collection of \$4,266,716.63 in medical and wage losses, mental health counseling expenses, and funeral/burial expenses, relocation, home security, support loss, home modification, dental and crime scene clean-up.

The program assists victims of all types of crime, including: robbery, assault, drunk driving, hit and run, sexual assault, domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, elder abuse, hate crimes, and aggravated assault. Additionally, the program assists family members of homicide victims.

In 2019, there were 18,685 new victims referred to the program. Of the 18,685 new victims, there were 1,704 new victims of child sexual and physical abuse.

STATISTICS

In 2019, this Office reviewed a total of 74,600 matters and filed 33,232 cases. Of all reviewed cases, 1,622 involved ICAN-related matters. Of the reviewed cases, 479 were filed. As a result of this continued commitment and dedication, Los Angeles is a safer place for children and families to live, work, and go to school.

BREAKDOWN OF ICAN-RELATED CHARGES

The following information provides a breakdown of ICAN-related charges and data involving child abuse prosecutions by the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney.

SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

In 2019, the Office reviewed 267 child sexual abuse and exploitation investigations regarding violations of the following California Penal Code

Code Section	Description
261.5(a)	Unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor, who is a under the age of 18 years
261.5(b-d)	Engages in an act of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor, who is not more than three years older or three years younger than the perpetrator
288a(b)(1)	Oral Copulation with a Person Under 18
288(c)1	Lewd Acts with a Child Under 15/10 Year Age Difference
288.2(a)(1)	Sending harmful matter to a minor
288.2(a)(2)	Sending harmful matter to a minor (non-sexual)
288.4(a)(1)	Arranging a meeting with a minor to expose oneself
289(h)	Sexual Penetration with Person Under 18
311.3(a)	Sexual Exploitation of a Child
311.11(a)	Possession of Child Pornography
647.6(a)(1)	Annoying or Molesting a Child under the age of 18 years
647.6(a)(2)	Engaging in conduct with an adult whom they believe to be a child when motivated by an abnormal sexual interest in a child



Of the 267 criminal investigations presented for filing consideration, 65 cases were filed and prosecuted as misdemeanors, 50 were referred to the City Attorney Hearing Program, and 152 were rejected. There was a disposition of 56 sexual abuse and exploitation cases. Of those 56 cases, 50 resulted in guilty pleas or convictions following jury trials.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

In 2019, the Office reviewed 1,355 child abuse and neglect investigations involving violations of the California Penal Code sections listed below:

Code Section	Description
271	Desertion of Child under 14 with Intent to Abandon
271a	Abandonment or Failure to Maintain Child under 14
272	Contributing to the Delinquency of Persons Under 18
273a(a)	Willful Harm or Injury to Child
273a(b)	Willful Harm or Injury to Child
273d(a)	Corporal Punishment or Injury to Child
278.5	Child Concealment/Non-Custodial Person

Of those 1,355 investigations, 414 cases were filed and prosecuted as misdemeanors, 317 were referred to the City Attorney Hearing Program, and 624 were rejected. There were dispositions in 393 child abuse and neglect cases. Of those 393 cases, 338 resulted in guilty pleas or convictions following jury trials.

CONCLUSION

The primary goal of the Office of the City Attorney is to provide residents, children, and families of Los Angeles a safe place to live and to improve the quality of life for the City’s residents at home, at school, at work, and at play. Great efforts are made each year to meet that goal and to ensure that all Los Angeles children have the opportunity for a safe and bright future.