

**MARIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
GENERAL ORDER**

**CHAPTER 5 - OPERATIONS**

**GO -05-01**

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**August 28, 2013**

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**VICTIM ASSISTANCE**

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**POLICY**

It is the policy of the Marin County Sheriff's Office to provide crime victims with information regarding their rights in the California Victim's Bill of Rights Act, the availability of victim/witness services through State and local programs, and the availability of California State Victim Notification Service (VINE).

**DEFINITIONS**

**CALIFORNIA VICTIM'S BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2008** enacted by the State Legislature and commonly known as Marcy's Rights, provides specific rights to victims of crime concerning information disclosure, notice of trials, hearings, case disposition and the availability of restitution.

**MARIN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** offers local advocates for victims and witnesses of crime who provide a wide range of services and support.

**CALIFORNIA STATE VICTIM NOTIFICATION SERVICE** commonly known as VINE, helps victims obtain information about the custody status of their offender. VINE is a free service that is available 24-hours a day in English and Spanish and is confidential. Victims may call or visit on-line to obtain offender custody status, or they may register with VINE to receive automatic notification of any change in offender custody status.

**PROCEDURE**

Victims of crime reported to the Marin County Sheriff's Office will be offered a victim information pamphlet titled Marcy's Card and Resources by personnel who receive and document the crime, as required by the California State Constitution. If the victim contact is not in-person, the pamphlet shall be mailed to the victim. This pamphlet is printed in both English and Spanish, and is available widely within the Patrol and Investigations Divisions. MCDA Victim/Witness Program telephone number: 473-6450.

In cases where personnel respond to a crime and an offender has been taken into custody, the victim shall also be provided with a California State Victim Notification Service (VINE) pamphlet describing the notification system and instructions for learning the offender's custody status. This pamphlet is printed in both English and Spanish. VINE telephone number is: 1-877-411-5588. Internet: [www.vinelink.com](http://www.vinelink.com)

**INDEXING:**

Victim Notification

**RELATED STANDARDS:**

None.

AFFECTED DIVISIONS:

All.

DATE OF REVISIONS:

6/9/98

8/29/00

8/28/13

By Order of:

ROBERT T. DOYLE

Sheriff-Coroner