

A STALKING.ORG REFERENCE GUIDE

Reporting Stalking to California Officials

Statewide Edition

Every hotline, state agency, and court resource you need to report stalking in California.

Statewide California agencies
Verified phone numbers & addresses
Part of the Stalking.org 50-state series

stalking.org

GETTING STARTED

How to Use This Guide

This guide covers **statewide** California resources: the government agencies, hotlines, and courts that serve every county. Each section also tells you how to find the right local office for your specific city or county.

Start here: the California Attorney General's Office of Victim Services (1-877-433-9069) and the California Courts Self-Help Center can point you to the right state or local office for your exact situation.

Before you call: have your documentation ready — dates, what happened, any messages or photos saved, and whether a report has already been filed elsewhere.

If you're in danger: call 911 first. Every other number in this guide is for follow-up support, not emergency response.

What's inside

- Emergency & immediate-danger contacts
- Statewide California agencies (Attorney General Victim Services, CalVCB, Safe at Home, Courts Self-Help Center)
- Reporting to local police & county sheriffs
- Domestic violence protective orders explained
- Step-by-step: filing a report & getting a protective order
- Specialized support (child abuse, elder abuse, civil rights)
- A one-page master contact sheet

Legal notice: This guide offers general information for educational purposes and is not legal advice. Phone numbers, addresses, and procedures for California state and local agencies were verified at time of writing but can change — confirm current details with the agency directly. Stalking.org is not affiliated with any agency listed and is not a crisis service. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Emergency & Immediate Danger

If a stalker is near you right now, threatening you, or has violated a protection order, these are your first calls — before anything else in this guide.

Emergency — Police, Fire, Medical

911

Call if you are in immediate danger, right now.

California Highway Patrol

1-800-835-5247

Statewide, for highway matters and general non-emergency support.

chp.ca.gov

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

988

24/7 federal crisis line · call or text, also reachable for someone else's safety concerns.

Can't speak safely? In areas where Text-to-911 is supported, you can text instead of calling — check with your mobile carrier or alea.gov for coverage in your county.

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●California — Statewide Agencies

These government agencies serve every county in California.

California Attorney General — Office of Victim Services

1-877-433-9069

VictimServices@doj.ca.gov · Help exercising victims' rights under Marsy's Law statewide.
oag.ca.gov/victimservices

California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB)

1-800-777-9229

Covers crime-related expenses, explicitly including stalking and online harassment · Info@victims.ca.gov
victims.ca.gov

Safe at Home (CA Address Confidentiality Program)

1-877-322-5227

TTY 916-651-1304 · Free P.O. box and mail forwarding to keep your address off public records, run by the CA Secretary of State.
sos.ca.gov/registries/safe-home

California Courts Self-Help Center

Via selfhelp.courts.ca.gov

Free, official guidance on filing a restraining order and finding your local courthouse.
selfhelp.courts.ca.gov

CA Dept. of Corrections — Office of Victim & Survivor Rights and Services

1-877-256-6877

For victims whose case involves someone in state prison or on parole, including notification and harassment intervention.
cdcr.ca.gov/victim-services

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LOCAL POLICE

● Reporting to Local Police & Sheriffs

Stalking is usually reported to the police department in the city where you live or work, or to your county sheriff outside city limits.

Your local police department (non-emergency line)**Dial 911, or search “[your city] police non-emergency”**

Stalking can be reported at any city police department or county sheriff's office.

Your county sheriff's office**Varies by county**

Primary law enforcement in unincorporated parts of California.

Your county Superior Court**Find yours via courts.ca.gov/find-my-court**

Restraining orders are filed at your county's Superior Court self-help center.

Good to know: you can file a report at any police department, not only the one nearest the stalker. Ask for the officer's name, a complaint or case number, and how to follow up.

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Restraining Orders in California

Civil Harassment Restraining Order: the order most often used for stalking by someone you don't have a close family or intimate relationship with — a stranger, acquaintance, neighbor, or coworker.

Domestic Violence Restraining Order: for stalking by a current or former spouse, partner, co-parent, or close relative.

Cost: there is no fee to file for either type of restraining order in California.

California Courts Self-Help Center

Free, official step-by-step instructions and all required forms for every restraining order type.

selfhelp.courts.ca.gov

Where to file

Your county's Superior Court — find it at courts.ca.gov/find-my-court.

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Step-by-Step: What to Expect

● Filing a Police Report

- 1 Go to any police department or county sheriff's office — you do not have to go to the one nearest the stalker.
- 2 Ask to speak with an officer and say clearly that you want to report stalking or harassment.
- 3 Bring your documentation: dates, messages, photos, and names of any witnesses.
- 4 Ask for the report's complaint number before you leave, and request a copy if possible.
- 5 Ask about victim assistance resources — many departments have a victim advocate or can refer you to ACADV.

● Getting a Restraining Order

- 1 Go to selfhelp.courts.ca.gov or your county Superior Court and ask for the right restraining order packet — civil harassment or domestic violence.
- 2 Fill out the petition with as much detail as possible — dates, incidents, and any history of the person's behavior.
- 3 File the forms with the court clerk; there is no filing fee for either order type.
- 4 A judge can issue a temporary restraining order the same day, often without the other party present.
- 5 The order is served on the other party, usually by the sheriff or a process server — keep a copy with you, at home, and at work.

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SPECIALIZED SUPPORT

●Specialized Support

Child Abuse Reporting (county-based)**Varies by county, or dial 911**

California's child abuse hotline is run at the county level — your county's Child Protective Services is listed at cdss.ca.gov.

Adult Protective Services (county-based)**Varies by county**

For elder or dependent-adult abuse; find your county's APS line at cdss.ca.gov/adult-protective-services.

California Civil Rights Department**1-833-866-4283**

For stalking or harassment that also involves discrimination, including at work or in housing.

civildrights.ca.gov

CA Dept. of Justice — Office of the Attorney General, general line**916-445-9555**

For matters not covered by Victim Services directly.

oag.ca.gov

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QUICK REFERENCE

Quick-Reference Contact Sheet

Print or save this page — every number in this guide, in one place.

Agency	Phone	Scope
Emergency — Police, Fire, Medical	911	Emergency
California Highway Patrol	1-800-835-5247	Emergency
988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline	988	Emergency
California Attorney General — Office of Victim Services	1-877-433-9069	Statewide
California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB)	1-800-777-9229	Statewide
Safe at Home (CA Address Confidentiality Program)	1-877-322-5227	Statewide
California Courts Self-Help Center	Via selfhelp.courts.ca.gov	Statewide
CA Dept. of Corrections — Office of Victim & Survivor Rights and Services	1-877-256-6877	Statewide
Child Abuse Reporting (county-based)	Varies by county, or dial 911	Specialized
Adult Protective Services (county-based)	Varies by county	Specialized
California Civil Rights Department	1-833-866-4283	Specialized
CA Dept. of Justice — Office of the Attorney General, general line	916-445-9555	Specialized

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About Stalking.org



A 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing free, accessible safety tools to people facing stalking and cyberstalking — no account, no cost.

stalking.org/about-us · stalking.org/contact-us

Support the work

Donations keep every free tool and guide on stalking.org available for the next person who needs them — including this 50-state series.

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