

Korean Prosecutors Association
Resources for the Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Korean Prosecutors Association is committed to providing community support through resources and information during this epic pandemic. As we endure these difficult times together, we hope that you find this information helpful and we wish for your health and safety.

On March 19, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued an Executive Order requiring all California residents to “shelter in place” except for those working in essential businesses or services or those seeking to obtain essential needs. The order was necessary to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). During this unprecedented crisis and “shelter in place” order, we have seen family bonds grow stronger and human resilience and kindness transcend to new heights. Most of us are home and doing everything in our power to keep our families and community safe and healthy. However, many in our community are suffering from job loss, monetary constraints, depression, lack of social interaction, and concerns about what the future holds. And during this stressful time, we have also seen a rise in domestic violence and incidents of consumer fraud and other crimes.

The Korean Prosecutors Association along with local law enforcement and prosecuting agencies are on heightened alert for crimes of domestic violence, child abuse, hate crimes, and consumer fraud. Law enforcement will not stand idle with those that would take unscrupulous advantage of the most vulnerable members of our community during these difficult times. Shelter in place orders do not forbid individuals from leaving their homes in order to avoid domestic violence or child abuse. Everyone has the right to be safe and protected.

Please report the conduct using the resources provided throughout this article. Call and ask for a Korean language translator. For an ongoing emergency, please call 9-1-1. Reporting the conduct is the first step to getting assistance. You can also call 1 (800) 799-SAFE (7233), the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and it has victim advocates available 24/7 in more than 200 languages, including Korean. Help is waiting; please do not let the abuse continue because of the fear of not being able to overcome the language barrier. Ask for help, help is waiting.

To those who have concerns for loved ones facing potential harm, please contact your local law enforcement agency and request that they conduct a “welfare check.” Police officers will respond to the location and check on the safety or well being of the person that you are concerned about. The officers will then make a report and document their findings. If you believe it is an emergency, please call 9-1-1. For non-emergency inquiries, simply dial 3-1-1 or contact your local law enforcement agency to find information about police services, make complaints, or report non-emergencies. The following is a partial directory of non-emergency police phone numbers.

Los Angeles PD	Los Angeles, California	(877) 275-5273
San Diego PD	San Diego, California	(858) 484-3154
San Jose PD	San Jose, California	(408) 277-8900
San Francisco PD	San Francisco, California	(415) 553-0123
Fresno PD	Fresno, California	(559) 621-7000
Sacramento PD	Sacramento, California	(916) 264-5471
Long Beach PD	Long Beach, California	(562) 435-6711
Oakland PD	Oakland, California	(510) 777-3333
Bakersfield PD	Bakersfield, California	(661) 327-7111
Non-Emergency	3-1-1	
Emergency	9-1-1	

On April 6, 2020, the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court issued an emergency bail schedule to reduce the inmate population and limit the spread of COVID-19. A bail schedule lists the amount of bail that a person charged with an offense is required to pay to remain out of custody during the pendency of the criminal proceedings. Bail for most misdemeanors have been set at \$0; however, for domestic violence, stalking, driving under the influence offenses, and offenses requiring sex offender registration, bail remains unchanged.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence shelters, crisis intervention, and other support services remain open and operational. If you are in danger now, please call 9-1-1. To get information on your local domestic violence service center, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1 (800) 799-7233 or visit the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence’s website at www.cpedv.org and click under the “resources” tab to find maps, hotline numbers, and

websites (where available) of domestic violence organizations in your local community.

Domestic violence restraining orders remain available and in effect. Time frames for temporary restraining orders have been extended. The best resource on obtaining temporary restraining orders comes from your county's court website. Visit www.courts.ca.gov to get more information on your county's specific information regarding temporary restraining orders.

On April 13, 2020, the California Department of Justice issued a press release sharing resources to combat intimate partner violence.

National Domestic Violence Hotline

- <https://www.thehotline.org/> (online chat available)
- 1 (800) 799-SAFE (7233)
- Free and confidential
- Advocates available 24/7 in more than 200 languages

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

- www.cpedv.org
- Resources tab – Find maps, hotline numbers and websites (where available) of domestic violence organizations in your local community.

National Sexual Assault Hotline (RAINN)

- <https://rainn.org/> (online chat available)
- 1 (800) 656-HOPE (4673)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

- <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/> (online chat available)
- 1-800-273-TALK (8255) | 1-800-799-4889 (TTY)

The Victims of Crime Resource Center

- <https://1800victims.org/> (online chat available)
- 1-800-VICTIMS (842-8467) (call or text)

Hate Crimes

With the continued increase in COVID-19 cases in the United States, there has been an

increase in the number of hate crimes and discrimination against Asian Americans. The first reported cases of COVID-19 were in Wuhan, China in December 2019. Currently, there are close to 700,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States. The origination of the disease from an Asian country could be leading to an increase in discrimination and hate crimes against Asians.

What is a hate crime? A hate crime is a crime that is motivated by bias against someone due to their race, ethnicity, nationality, disability, gender, religion, sexual orientation or association with a person or group with one or more of these characteristics. If you experience COVID-19 related physical attack, vandalism or threat because of your Asian heritage, you may be a victim of a hate crime. There is no place for hate. No one should be a victim of a crime for who they are and what they look like.

What should you do if you are a victim of or witness to a hate crime? The Korean Prosecutors Association encourages you to report the crime to your local law enforcement agency. One of the biggest obstacles in prosecuting hate crimes is the lack of reporting. This may be due to a language barrier that some hate crime victims face. Law enforcement agencies have language specialists and translators who can help assist with the reporting. Call and ask for a Korean language translator. Do not let the language barrier keep you from reporting hate crimes. Reporting of such crimes allows for services to be offered to victims and for prosecution of those who commit hate crimes.

If you have an ongoing emergency, dial 9-1-1. To report non-emergency hate crimes dial 3-1-1 or contact your local law enforcement agency.

Consumer Fraud

Simple precautions can help to ensure that you do not become a potential target of COVID-19 related scams during these unprecedented times. The California Department of Justice and local law enforcement agencies have issued consumer fraud alerts regarding fraudulent charities, price gouging, false advertising, and schemes tied to Federal and State economic impact payments.

Fraudulent charities amid COVID-19 have been targeting Californians that want to legitimately help others in this time of need. Do your research before donating to any

charity. Every charity that operates in California and telemarketers seeking donations within California must be registered with the Attorney's General's Registry of Charitable Trusts and are required to file annual financial reports. Before donating to any organization, go to California Attorney General's website at oag.ca.gov/charities and confirm the status of the charity.

Price gouging is illegal during the current COVID-19 declared state of emergency. Price gouging applies to those that sell food, emergency supplies, medical supplies, building materials, gas, repair or reconstruction services, emergency cleanup services, transportation, freight and storage services, hotel accommodations, and rental housing. The law generally prohibits prices to exceed 10% or more before the declaration of emergency.

Deceptive advertising related to COVID-19 is illegal and the law prohibits false, deceptive, or misleading advertising. Products or services that claim to treat, diagnose, prevent or cure COVID-19 should be viewed with the utmost precaution. Do not give your personal information to any telemarketer or respond to any emails, or click on any email links claiming to provide a service or product that sounds too good to be true. As of now, no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 has been discovered and there are no direct medical treatments or cures for the coronavirus.

Fraudulent schemes tied to Federal and State economic impact payments and tax returns have been on the rise. The IRS will not contact you over the phone or email to get your financial information to expedite any economic impact payment or tax refunds. For information regarding economic impact payments or coronavirus related tax relief please visit the IRS website at IRS.gov.

To file a consumer fraud complaint online please visit California Attorney General's website at oag.ca.gov/report or contact your local district attorney's office or law enforcement agency.

For more information about the Korean Prosecutors Association, please visit us at www.koreanpa.org. Stay safe!