

**District Attorney's Office  
Final Performance Plan  
FY 2008-09**

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**I. MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the District Attorney's Office is to enhance the quality of life in Marin County by taking a pro-active role in preventing crime, prosecuting with integrity, equality and excellence, and protecting the community by effectively dealing with those who prey upon our residents.

**II. DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW**

The Office of the District Attorney is the public prosecutor responsible for attending the courts and conducting all prosecutions for public offenses on behalf of the people. The California Constitution mandates that each County have an elected District Attorney. The District Attorney is an officer of the County and also an officer of the State when engaged in the prosecution of crimes defined under State law.

The District Attorney's Office has two operational divisions that provide mandated services in the area of prosecution, protection and prevention: the General Prosecution Division and the Targeted Prosecution Division. The units within the divisions are responsible for conducting the prosecution of public offenses committed within Marin County.

The General Prosecution Division has within its structure five vertical felony trial teams, as well as the Misdemeanor Trial Unit. Vertical prosecution is one of the key organizational components whose construct reduces inconvenience to crime victims and law enforcement personnel.

The Targeted Prosecution Division has a number of operational units that focus on specific activities. The specialized units are the Intake Unit, the Family Violence Unit, the Juvenile Unit, the Sexual Assault Specialist, the Insurance Fraud Unit, the Law and Motion Unit, the Consumer Fraud Unit, and the community justice attorney whose responsibilities include elder financial abuse, the Drug Courts and the Mental Health Court.

As an adjunct and in support of the two prosecutorial divisions of the office, there is an Administrative Unit, an Investigations Unit, and a Victim/Witness Program Unit.

**III. ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2007-08**

- Assisted in the establishment of a Family Court after three years of collaborative discussions with criminal justice partners and the Marin County Superior Court. This court will monitor defendants in misdemeanor cases who have been determined to be of high risk for re-offending and help break the often escalating cycle of violence.
- Substantially reduced large backlog of misdemeanor jury trials
- Implemented a regionally-based victim support program for those individuals brought into the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation system for parole revocation hearings
- Successfully modified the eligibility criteria so that more cases can now be heard through the Adult Drug Court
- As part of the second year of a three-year grant, worked with criminal justice and community partners in order to train law enforcement and adult protective personnel in the many facets of elder abuse investigation and prosecution
- Continued services and programs at the Jeanette Prandi Children's Center, where over 350 children have been interviewed since its opening in 2000

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- Through the office's Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and Rapid Response Team (RRT), continued to intervene, investigate and prosecute when appropriate those who are abusing or neglecting Marin County's senior citizens

**IV. GOALS AND INITIATIVES FY 2008-09**

**GOAL 1: PROTECTION: Engage in and support all activities that will aid in continuing to reduce the County's crime rate and stop the victimization of county residents**

**FY 2008-09 Initiatives**

1. Develop and implement a three-year elder abuse training program for law enforcement personnel, social workers, and judicial officers
2. Work with community partners to provide expert assistance on elder abuse cases
3. Work with Marin County Office of Education and other County departments to implement Safe Schools and Prevention Programs to reduce juvenile crime and gang violence

**GOAL 2: PROSECUTION: Continue vigorous prosecution efforts toward the serious offender, the violent offender, and the sexual predator**

**FY 2008-09 Initiatives**

1. Continue to support targeted training for Family Violence Team members
2. Maintain vertical prosecution approach involving attorneys, inspectors, and victim advocates to felony Family Violence caseload
3. Continue to work with the United States Attorney for the Northern District of California in order to cross-designate Marin Deputy District Attorneys as Assistant United States Attorneys for the purposes of federally prosecuting selected Marin-based offenses

**GOAL 3: PREVENTION: Increase the District Attorney's Office presence in collaborative programs with community and County family partners in order to build trust and confidence in the justice system and meet the long-term goal of crime prevention**

**FY 2008-09 Initiatives**

1. Continue to assist with the specialty (restorative) courts system
2. Work with partner agencies and the courts to establish protocols and procedures surrounding the new family violence calendar or court

**GOAL 4: EXCELLENCE IN MANAGEMENT: Provide excellent customer service, both externally and internally, and strive to continuously improve our stewardship of the department**

**FY 2008-09 Initiatives**

1. Provide training and resources to employees to improve their job-related skills

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**FY 2008-09 Initiatives**

2. Work with Human Resources and various unions to provide fair compensation to all segments of staff

**V. KEY CHALLENGES AND OUTSTANDING ISSUES**

- Providing adequate and meaningful elder abuse prosecution resources with the existing attorney and investigative staffing
- Maintaining the integrity of felony vertical prosecution of Family Violence cases in light of recent appellate court decisions that have increased litigation
- Providing adequate and meaningful attorney coverage of the expanding restorative justice courts
- Maintaining a meaningful Family Violence Court or Calendar which that has broad-based acceptance
- Implementing the Parole Advocacy Program supported by the Department's Victim Assistance Unit.
- Maintaining a high quality prosecution program in the face of potentially significant budget reductions

**VI. PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

**VICTIM/WITNESS ADVOCATE PROGRAM**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Victim/Witness program is designed to provide direct services to victims and witnesses of crime on multiple levels. Services include: crisis intervention, resource and referral counseling, assistance with navigation and understanding of the court process and the criminal justice system, Assistance with VCP applications (Victims Crime Program), administered by the VCP and Government Claims Board and various other services. Our program's goal is to alleviate the trauma and the devastating effect of crime on the lives of victims and their families.

**OBJECTIVE: Obtain high client satisfaction rating from clients using one of the victim-witness outreach centers**

<b>Measures</b>	<b>FY 06-07 Actual</b>	<b>FY 07-08 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 08-09 Estimate</b>
<b>Workload Measures</b>			
Number of intakes at four Victim/Witness centers	147	121	125
<b>Effectiveness Measures</b>			
Number of eligible clients using services	140	100	125
Percent increase of clients seen annually per location	n/a	5%	5%
Client satisfaction rating (1-7 scale)	n/a	7.0	7.0

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**Department Comments:**

These measurements are important in order to determine the effectiveness of the Victim Regional Site program and make necessary adjustments in order to best serve the community.

**PROSECUTION SERVICES**

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Within the Prosecution Services program, the District Attorney's Office has two operational divisions that provide mandated services: the General Prosecution Division and the Targeted Prosecution Division. The units within the divisions are responsible for conducting the prosecution of public offenses committed within Marin County.

The Elder Abuse Investigative Program within Prosecution Services will work with local law enforcement agencies to develop financial elder abuse cases that involve real estate fraud and other related financial exploitation.

**OBJECTIVE: Increase awareness of potential elder abuse with local law enforcement agencies**

Measures	FY 06-07 Actual	FY 07-08 Estimate	FY 08-09 Estimate
<b>Workload Measures</b>			
Number of community outreach presentations	n/a	5	5
Number of patrol briefings attended at local police agencies	n/a	3	3
Number of meetings with local policy agency investigation units	n/a	6	6
<b>Effectiveness Measures</b>			
Number of elder abuse cases filed	n/a	5	5

**Department Comments:**

By raising awareness in the community and law enforcement agencies, signs of abuse should become easier to identify and more preventable. When abuse has already occurred, law enforcement will have a better understanding of how to collect important evidence which may be used in prosecuting defendants.