

Transitioning from Law Enforcement Victim Assistance to the District Attorney's Office when there is a prosecution

Victims will need to be transitioned from the Law Enforcement Victim Assistance Units to the District Attorney's Office Victim/Witness Divisions in criminal cases. District Attorney's Office will need to assess if they have the necessary staff to assist large numbers of victims. Moreover, it is essential for the DA advocates to establish a relationship with the victim and/or family. This transition should be discussed by both agencies as to how the victims/survivors will transition from the law enforcement agency to the District Attorney's Office. Depending on the number of victims, a meeting may want to be set up so that all of the victims and their family can be introduced to the DA staff and explain how the transition process will occur. Consider having the law enforcement victim advocates, the community advocates that will be involved with the victims on a longer-term basis and the District Attorney's staff at the meeting.

During this meeting, victims/survivors/family members should be provided any updated information on the case by the investigators and the DA's office can provide information on the court process. In addition, law enforcement advocates can introduce the assigned DA advocates to the victims and family members in order to exchange contact information and explain the different advocacy roles of each agency in more detail.

Law enforcement and community advocates should refer victims to DA advocates for questions specific to the criminal case.