



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
EDMUND G BROWN JR., Governor

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California's Victim Service Leader Urges Adults to Model Healthy Relationships

Teens Need Examples of Respectful, Caring Relationships

Sacramento, CA – During National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month this February, California's leading victim advocate asks all adults to examine their relationships, particularly when young people are watching and learning.

"I think we would all be surprised how many children and teens actually look up to us," said Julie Nauman, Executive Officer of the California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP). "For this reason, it is undoubtedly necessary for adults to engage in healthy and respectful relationships with their significant others, children, business associates, and friends.

"Our adolescents are turning to friends, family, music, television, and the internet to learn how to navigate relationships; and unfortunately, much of what they see consists of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse. One-third of U.S. teens report experiencing some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships, including verbal, physical and emotional maltreatment.ⁱ CalVCP alone receives over 80 applications every day from young people, many of whom are applying to help pay for medical or mental health treatment because an abusive partner hurt them.

"Now more than ever, it is critical for parents, community leaders, mentors, educators, bosses, and all adults to be the healthy example. This month, take the time to examine how you are showing respect, privacy, support and fairness to those in your life. "

For more information about CalVCP visit: www.calvcp.ca.gov.

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The California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP), a division of the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (VCGCB), provides compensation for victims of violent crime who are injured or threatened with injury. Among the crimes covered are domestic violence, child abuse, sexual and physical assault, homicide, robbery, and vehicular manslaughter.

If a person meets eligibility criteria, CalVCP will compensate many types of services when the costs are not covered by other sources. Eligible services include medical and dental care, mental health services, income loss, funeral

expenses, rehabilitation and relocation. Funding for CalVCP comes from restitution fines and orders, penalty assessments levied on persons convicted of crimes and traffic offenses, and matching federal funds. The program is not taxpayer funded.

ⁱ Carolyn Tucker Halpern, Ph.D. et al., "Partner Violence Among Adolescents in Opposite - Sex Romantic Relationships: Findings From the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health." American Journal of Public Health 91 (2001) 1680. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1446854/>