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For Immediate Release

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District Attorneys & US Attorney Join Forces Online to Prevent Child Abuse, Domestic Violence

Innovative Use of Technology Aims to Reach Victims of Violence in the Home

Human rights groups have named it the “shadow pandemic.” Aid organizations are scared for the well-being and survival of victims of family violence. Prosecutors worry that they will not receive help and domestic abusers will not be brought to justice.

As the shelter in place order aims to slow the spread of COVID-19, an unintended but alarming consequence has emerged: adults and children suffering from abuse in the home find themselves trapped with their abuser, unable to report to and seek safety from the people and places they normally go.

To combat this unique risk to victims of domestic violence and child abuse during COVID-19, the elected District Attorneys of San Diego, Alameda, and Sacramento Counties and the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California worked together and with Facebook to create a digital public awareness campaign aimed at reaching out to both adult and child victims of interpersonal violence, including [a Facebook Live panel presentation that will stream TODAY, Friday, July 10 at 10:00 am.](#) The information and insights they provide will aim to help anyone who is suffering violence in the home or to anyone who fears for a loved-one. This conversation may very well save a life.

The public awareness messages are visible on Facebook and other social media platforms; a new post made visible each day for two weeks provides information on resources, helplines, and services vital to reporting abuse and escaping the violence. A 60 second video visible on Facebook has

FACEBOOK LIVE PANEL:
PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19
LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS LEVERAGE TECH TO
HELP VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19

Friday, July 10
10 a.m.

Tune in for a discussion
with public safety leaders
about the unique risks to
victims of child abuse and
domestic violence during
COVID-19, get resources,
and learn how they are
working together to use
technology creatively to
reach those exposed to
family violence in this
unprecedented time.

Moderated by:


 U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California McGregor W. Scott	 Sacramento District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert
 Alameda County District Attorney Nancy E. O'Malley	 San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan

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reached more than 33,400 people in San Diego County and 136,971 people state-wide over the initial four-day period of airing.

The campaign also offers information for concerned friends, family or teachers on how someone can help to protect a loved-one who is confined in the same spaces with their abuser for prolonged periods of time due to COVID-19, limiting privacy and exacerbating threats to their safety. Tools available through social media provide opportunities to reach both victims and witnesses of this abuse with support and guidance on how to get help.

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About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office

The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue fair and equal justice, and support victims daily across San Diego County.