

county of ventura

Area Agency on Aging

Victoria A. Jump
Director

August 11, 2004

Honorable Bruce A. Clark
Superior Court of California, Ventura County
Ventura County Hall of Justice
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: Elder Abuse in Ventura County

Dear Judge Clark:

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA) agrees with the findings of the 2003-04 Grand Jury report entitled "Elder Abuse in Ventura County." Elder Abuse has been and will continue to be a concern in Ventura County. Additionally, VCAAA annually receives a small amount of money under the Older Americans Act to provide grants for Elder Abuse. Past grantees have included the District Attorney's office and the Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Council (formerly the Ventura County Elder Abuse Council). Furthermore, in FY 2002-03, the VCAAA Advisory Council provided a grant to the Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Council to form the Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) in Ventura County. Our Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) manager is a current member of FAST.

In FY 2003-04, the Advisory Council taskforce held a poster contest for elementary school-aged children. The theme of the contest was "what my grandparents mean to me." The winning posters have been printed onto place mats and will be distributed at the congregate meal sites in each city. These place mats will be included as part of a packet of elder abuse information being sent to each county senior center and meal site. Additionally, the VCAAA has also established a lending library of elder abuse videotapes that will be made available to community-based organizations, county agencies and senior centers.

Lastly, our case management programs, Multipurpose Senior Service Program (MSSP) and Linkages regularly interact with Adult Protective Services (APS). Our case managers make reports to and often receive referrals from APS. Therefore, in our opinion, recommendation R-03 has already been implemented.

"We haven't forgotten the meaning of respect your elders."

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OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE

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VENTURA COUNTY GRAND JURY

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (805) 477-7300 if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria Jump". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

VICTORIA JUMP
Director