



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



Follow us @VenturaCountyDA
[DA.VenturaCounty.gov](https://www.da.venturacounty.gov)

Contact: Joey Buttitta
Title: Communications Manager/PIO
Phone: (805) 767-3400
Email: Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov

Approved: SW
Date: January 14, 2026
Release No.: 26-009

Expanded Civil Legal Services at Family Justice Center to Support Victim Safety & Stability



VENTURA, Calif. – The Ventura County Family Justice Center (FJC) announced today the expansion of on-site legal services with the addition of a second Ventura County Legal Aid (VCLA) attorney. This week, the new attorney began serving clients at the Family Justice Center, further strengthening support for victims of domestic violence and elder abuse.



Prior to this new arrival, one Ventura County Legal Aid attorney worked on-site at the Family Justice Center, primarily assisting elder abuse victims. These clients often require additional support due to cognitive challenges, mobility and transportation barriers, and the absence of a trusted individual to help them navigate the civil legal system. The addition of a second attorney will allow Ventura County Legal Aid to begin offering family law assistance for domestic violence survivors on topics such as seeking a restraining order or help litigating child custody issues.

“Ventura County Legal Aid provides crucial services for survivors navigating our complex civil legal systems, often during the worst times of their lives,” said Family Justice Centers Administrator Rachael Watkins. “They ensure rights of victims are upheld and empower clients to take actionable

steps towards regaining control and independence while instilling hope throughout the process. We are grateful for their continued support and partnership.”

Funding for the expansion of legal services includes grant funding from the State Bar, as well as corporate support from Yardi Corporation and private funding from the Chuck Trust. The added capacity will enhance the Center’s ability to provide comprehensive, victim-centered services in one location.

The Ventura County Family Justice Center, operated by the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office, provides a coordinated, trauma-informed response to victims of crime by having law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates, and community partners under one roof.

For more information about services offered by the FJC, visit fjc.venturacounty.gov.