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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: April 22, 2020 Victim Services Unit Re: National Crime Victims' Rights Week Phone: (209) 525-5541

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office, in commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), April 19-25, 2020, is utilizing social media to raise awareness about crime victims' issues and rights and introduce the community to the important resources and services available. This matters to our community because, according to the most recent National Crime Victimization Survey from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, about 3.3 million Americans age 12 or older were victims of violent crime in 2018. More specifically, in Stanislaus County, our Victim Services Unit served more than 11,600 victims of crime in FY 2018/19.

Considering COVID-19 and orders to stay home and observe social distancing, the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office Victim Services Unit is celebrating NCVRW virtually and inviting the community to join them in participation. NCVRW theme this year is Seek Justice, Ensure Victims' Rights and Inspire Hope. Each day, new posts can be found on the Stanislaus County DA Facebook and Instagram pages with family friendly information and activities related to victims' rights and this year's NCVRW theme. The community is invited to print, play and post results in the comments section of each post. On Friday, April 24th, Victim Advocates will participate in a Virtual 5k Walk/Run with the National Organization for Victim Assistance to raise awareness and advance the rights of crime victims. The community is invited to participate, take pictures and post them on Friday's Facebook and Instagram posts.

To continue to meet the needs of victims during this pandemic, the Victim Services Unit remains open and available by telephone to provide services to victims of crime, assist with California Victim Compensation applications and provide court escort for a victim receiving a subpoena in the limited number of court hearings continuing to take place. Please call the Victim Services Unit for any assistance you may need if you are a victim of crime. Every effort is being made to update victims regarding hearings being rescheduled due to COVID-19. Victims of crime in the community are encouraged to call the Victim Services Unit to provide any changes or updates to telephone, address or email contact information.

For additional information about this year's NCVRW or victim services in Stanislaus County in general, please contact the Victim Services Unit at 209-525-5541. Find and follow the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Facebook and Instagram pages, respectively, at "Stanislaus County District Attorney" and "stancounty_DA," to learn more.

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