



**DEBRA BOWEN** | SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA | SAFE AT HOME

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January 10, 2007

Clerk of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3196  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Secretary of the Senate  
State Capitol, Room 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: California "Safe at Home" 2006 Annual Report

The California confidential mail forwarding program "Safe at Home" serves California's victims of domestic violence, stalking and members of the reproductive health care industry by providing confidential mail forwarding, voter registration, name change, school records transfers, and Department of Motor Vehicle record suppression services. These additional layers of protection allow our participants to re-establish productive lives free from fear of violence and abuse.

New legislation that became law on January 1, 2007 extends the Safe at Home program to 2013, allows victims of sexual assault to enroll in the program and removes the requirement that proposed confidential name changes be published.

In compliance with Govt. Code 6210(a), I am pleased to forward to you the Safe at Home Program's 2006 Annual Report on current participation. In addition to the enclosed summary reports reflecting the current enrollment and related statistics, the Safe at Home Program initiated several internal enhancements and upgrades to the program's infrastructure to provide more efficient and effective service to its participants.

These program improvements include:

- Redesign and consolidation of the Safe at Home confidential database to improve security and tracking of the participants.
- Redesign of confidential voter registration cards to encourage voter participation resulting in a 29% increase in confidential voter registration.
- Recertification of all Safe at Home enrolling agencies.

- New outreach and education materials, including a successful statewide domestic violence awareness forum in October 2006, to promote the program and increase participation.

The Safe at Home outreach efforts in 2006 have resulted in the addition of 21 new enrolling agencies and the training of over 360 enrolling agency victim advocates. The Safe at Home enrolling agencies are made up of shelters, district attorney's offices and non-profit women's centers that provide counseling and assist domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault victims who want to enroll in Safe at Home.

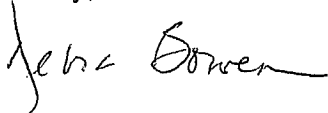
Our records show a 29% increase in voter registration in 2006. To help increase voter participation, new voter registration cards with detailed instructions for completion were printed and distributed to the program's 296 enrolling agencies. New Safe at Home participants who don't complete a confidential voter registration card when enrolling at an agency are sent a new confidential voter registration card and letter from Safe at Home encouraging them to register to vote with their new participant packet.

Last summer, the Safe at Home program conducted its annual mass mailing of program information to all participants to help them understand the services they're entitled to receive, how to use them, and how to comply with program guidelines. This mailing resulted in returned mail to the Safe at Home program from participants who had moved, left the state or were otherwise unreachable by telephone. In order to keep the program database current with active participants, these participant cases were closed after all efforts to contact the participants failed. As a result of this mailing, other participants chose to voluntarily withdraw from the program, as they felt they had taken the necessary steps through the program to ensure their future safety. This mass mailing resulted in the reduction of overall Safe at Home enrollment; however, the program's current database now reflects more accurate and updated information.

The entire Safe at Home program staff and I are dedicated to providing quality and timely service to all California citizens to ensure all Californians feel "Safe at Home".

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-7244.

Sincerely,



Debra Bowen  
Secretary of State

Enclosures

## **SAFE AT HOME 2006 SUMMARY**

Number of participants served since 1999: **3,323**

Number of applications rejected in 2006: **44**

Number of participants as of January 1, 2006: **2,157**

Number of participants in 1999: **121**

Number of current active participants: **2,242**

Number of cases closed in 2006: **307**

Percentage of participants who are women: **53**

men: **4**

children: **43**

Average length of enrollment: **12 – 24 months**

Mail pieces forwarded in 2006: **273,080**

in 1999: **11,000**

Postage costs in 2006: **\$39,955**

in 1999: **\$6,000**

Number of enrolling agencies: **296**

Counties with highest enrollment: **Los Angeles [385]**

**Orange [296]**

**San Diego [278]**

**Sacramento [197]**

**Riverside [104]**

Number of registered voters in 2006: **743**

Number of cases of election misuse: **0**

## CHART: PARTICIPATION BY COUNTY

Alameda <b>110</b>	Orange <b>296</b>
Alpine <b>0</b>	Placer <b>41</b>
Amador <b>8</b>	Plumas <b>0</b>
Butte <b>22</b>	Riverside <b>104</b>
Calaveras <b>3</b>	Sacramento <b>197</b>
Colusa <b>2</b>	San Benito <b>1</b>
Contra Costa <b>42</b>	San Bernardino <b>91</b>
Del Norte <b>9</b>	San Diego <b>278</b>
El Dorado <b>18</b>	San Francisco <b>28</b>
Fresno <b>59</b>	San Joaquin <b>42</b>
Glenn <b>29</b>	San Luis Obispo <b>27</b>
Humboldt <b>5</b>	San Mateo <b>34</b>
Imperial <b>5</b>	Santa Barbara <b>16</b>
Inyo <b>3</b>	Santa Clara <b>94</b>
Kern <b>28</b>	Santa Cruz <b>6</b>
Kings <b>1</b>	Shasta <b>29</b>
Lake <b>4</b>	Sierra <b>0</b>
Lassen <b>0</b>	Siskiyou <b>0</b>
Los Angeles <b>385</b>	Solano <b>6</b>
Madera <b>10</b>	Sonoma <b>49</b>
Marin <b>9</b>	Stanislaus <b>32</b>
Mariposa <b>0</b>	Sutter <b>1</b>
Mendocino <b>3</b>	Tehama <b>4</b>
Merced <b>2</b>	Trinity <b>3</b>
Modoc <b>0</b>	Tulare <b>12</b>
Mono <b>0</b>	Tuolumne <b>19</b>
Monterey <b>14</b>	Ventura <b>20</b>
Napa <b>10</b>	Yolo <b>13</b>
Nevada <b>12</b>	Yuba <b>6</b>