

SAFE @ HOME PROGRAM

Submitted by Shana Simpson – Sacramento
February/2010

Have any of you ever received an excuse request from a juror that is enrolled in the Safe at Home Program through the Secretary of State? If so, how did you process their request?
Shana Simpson, Sacramento

1	Sherry Spears	Fresno - We had a juror who said that they were in the Federal Witness Protection Plan, don't know if that would be close to the same thing though. They were a non-resident anyway so it was a moot point. I've never heard of the Safe at Home program.
2	Carol Sharek	Tehama - Can they show you proof that they are included in that program? I did a Google search for Safe at Home Program and it covers people who have been a victim of domestic violence. Hope that helps you.
3	Keri Shane	Eldorado - I emailed the secretary of state to see if they are exempt from jury duty. The safe at home program doesn't state anything about jury. Only that they are protected and their information is confidential. I am eager to learn the outcome.
4	Safe @ Home Administration	<p>Since all of our participants use a P.O. Box in Sacramento as their official address of record, we often get participants that received notices to appear for jury duty in Sacramento County though they may live in Los Angeles or San Diego. In these cases, the Safe at Home program or the participant notifies the court that the participant does not live within the county. However, if the participant actually resides in El Dorado County and is asked to serve on a jury, they are not exempt from service. If they are selected to appear for jury duty, the county may only use their P.O. Box address in Sacramento as an address of record for the participant.</p> <p>All of our participants are victims of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault and live in fear of being found by their perpetrator so they would normally want to avoid any appearance in a high profile trial or a trial involving charges similar to what they experienced. The program was established to protect victims from their abusers so most maintain a very low profile and do not participate in public events. It would be difficult for most of our participants to serve on a criminal trial, it may bring back bad memories or they may be prejudice against the court system if they feel they did not get fair treatment on their victimization.</p>