

Save A Life

WHAT IS THE SAVE-A-LIFE PROGRAM ?

The Save-A-Life Program is a court-ordered course for at-risk juveniles who have demonstrated a disregard for their own safety and the safety of others by engaging in risky, reckless or violent behavior.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the program is to end unsafe behavior by exposing participants to the harsh consequences of their actions. Through their discussion of actual case histories and viewing personal tragedy, they will have an opportunity to examine their past decisions, how to take control over their lives and, ultimately, end their reckless behavior.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introductions, Survey and Overview
2. Review of Coroner's Office Duties
3. Review and discuss case histories
4. Tour of the Coroner's Pathology Dept.
5. Contract for Change and award of certificate.

HOW SAVE-A-LIFE WORKS

The participants will begin this program in the classroom. Led by an Investigator from San Mateo County Coroner's Office, they will learn the vital functions of the office, the purpose of the Save-A-Life Program and discuss the reason they are attending. Then, actual cases of those who lost their lives due to reckless behavior are viewed and discussed.

When the classroom portion is over, participants are led to the Pathology Division where they will experience the sights and smells that are common to the Coroner's Office. Students will NOT see an autopsy, however they will be exposed to other elements of the morgue.

Following the tour, they will be asked to document their experiences and answer questions as to how this course has changed their perspective. They will be asked to complete a "Contract for Change" which will outline the changes they wish to make in their lives. Certificates will be awarded upon successful completion of the course.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE COURSE

REFERRAL

Participants must attend the program if the Juvenile Court or Probation Department has referred them. The program is offered to youths between 14 and 22 years of age. Class size will not exceed 20 students. This will provide opportunities for discussion between students and instructors. Although parents **cannot attend**, students are urged to discuss their reactions, thoughts and "contract for change" with them.

REGISTRATION

Participants, **under the age of 18, must appear in person with a parent or lawful guardian** to register for the course. Participants, over the age of 18, will not require a guardian to register. Registration will take place at the San Mateo County Coroner's Office at 50 Tower Road in San Mateo, from 8am until 5pm, Monday to Friday. Participants will be required to bring proper identification, a copy of the referral or court order, \$50 check, money order or cash for registration.

