

CBS 5: Domestic Violence Center Opens In Alameda

Top News

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Domestic Violence Center Opens In Alameda

(Bay City News) ALAMEDA A one-stop center to help victims of domestic violence in Alameda County opened its doors Wednesday at a ceremony attended by state Attorney General Bill Lockyer, a top U.S. Justice Department official and many top local law enforcement officials.

The Alameda County Family Justice Center, which received a \$1.3 million grant from the Justice Department, is a partnership between the county, city governments and more than 50 community and non-profit partners who have come together to better coordinate their response to victims of domestic violence and their children.

The center also will help victims of sexual assault and elder abuse.

More than 350 communities nationwide competed for grants and Alameda County was one of only 15 communities that received grants.

Alameda County Chief Assistant District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, who led the effort to open the center, said that victims of domestic violence previously had to go to 25 different government agencies and six different courts to get help.

But they now can get all the help they need in one place, O'Malley said.

Organizations who will provide services at the Family Justice Center include law enforcement, probation officers, public health officials, mental health officials, legal groups and religious organizations.

Stuart said the center was funded in part through a program President Bush started in 2003 called the Family Justice Center Initiative.

(Bay City News)

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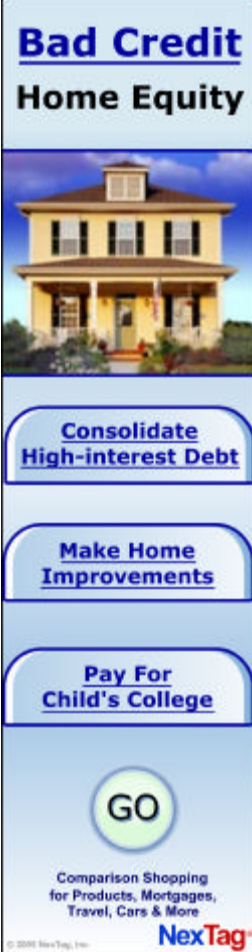
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