

PEER SUPPORT NETWORK

The San Francisco Bay Area Families for Safe Streets provides crash survivors and bereaved families with a connection to a peer support volunteer who has been through a similar experience. Our volunteers are dedicated to helping others survive this life-altering tragedy. The role of a volunteer is to listen and support the victim or family member as only a person who has shared this experience can do. Contact us to be connected with a member of Families for Safe Streets.

SUPPORT GROUP

If you seek support from others who have lost a loved one, and those suffering traumatic crash-related injuries, many groups already exist throughout the Bay Area. We can link you to these resources, which offer structured, supportive peer environments. Contact us for details.

If you're also interested in advocating for change, consider joining the SFBA Families for Safe Streets group, which meets regularly to change policies and the culture of traffic violence on our streets.

ACCESS OUR RESOURCES

We are building a collection of supportive resources. Visit the SFBA FSS website to access available materials.

WE UNDERSTAND

After a crash, your world is changed. Your thoughts and feelings may shift from minute to minute or hour by hour, and you could feel out of control.

You may question yourself or feel lost, not knowing what to do next or who to contact. Because there is no way to prepare for this, many people find traumatic grief to be uncharted territory.

As people who have experienced the same kind of trauma, we are here to listen and can refer you to other resources and support..

CONTACT US

sfbafamiliesforsafestreeets.org

415.431.9255 ext. 1#

familiesforsafestreeets@walksf.org

Facebook: SFBA Families

for Safe Streets

San Francisco Bay Area Families for Safe Streets, founded in 2016, is made up of survivors and families whose loved ones have been killed or severely injured by preventable crashes on our streets. We represent the full breadth of the region's diversity to provide a range of support to others with similar experiences.

We envision streets where people walking, bicycling, taking transit and driving safely co-exist, and where, children, seniors and people of all abilities can travel without risk of harm – where no loss of life in traffic is acceptable.

San Francisco Bay Area Families for Safe Streets receives support and guidance from Walk San Francisco – the only non-profit dedicated to making walking safe for everyone in San Francisco, and one of the city's Vision Zero Coalition members fighting to end all traffic deaths – though our members make all decisions regarding SFBA FSS initiatives.

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RESOURCE AND SUPPORT GUIDE

FOR TRAFFIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES



WE SUPPORT YOU

If you are reading this because you have lost a loved one in traffic crash have or been injured yourself, please accept our sincere condolences. We understand. San Francisco Bay Area Families for Safe Streets (SFBA FSS) is made up of individuals like you who have experienced the unimaginable.

Sadly, you are not alone. In San Francisco, every 3.5 hours someone is injured in a traffic crash; nearly four people face life-changing injuries every week, and each year over 30 people lose their lives.

SFBA FSS made this guide as a resource to help. If you have more questions, please contact us.



CRASH INVESTIGATION

POLICE INVESTIGATION

The legal process begins with a police investigation. A police officer from the District station in which the crash occurred, is charged with investigating the crash, unless it is determined that someone is seriously injured or has been killed.

If so, the San Francisco Police Department's protocol is to contact the Traffic Collision Investigation Unit (TCIU), which conducts a collision-specific investigation.

If you or your loved one was seriously injured or killed in a crash, ask the investigating officer whether the TCIU was deployed.

For crashes that took place in the broader Bay Area, check our website for the latest updates on each jurisdiction's procedures.

STAY INVOLVED

The police are required to:

- interview witnesses
- ascertain whether there are any cameras that may have recorded the crash (also called "canvassing" the scene)
- determine whether the driver was on the phone or whether alcohol was a factor

It is extremely important to stay involved and make sure all of these critical steps are completed. You may want to appoint a trusted family member or attorney to follow up.

LEGAL SYSTEM

DRIVER ACCOUNTABILITY

You may find yourself involved in various legal proceedings. The legal system provides different ways to hold the driver accountable and to provide you and your family with necessary financial compensation. These include:

Criminal Penalties

Criminal penalties are rare in cases where the driver is sober and does not leave the scene, but are increasing in frequency. Criminal prosecution requires action by the District Attorney, and typically, you will need to demand action.

Civil Penalties

Civil penalties involve suing the driver for negligence and monetary damages.

Traffic Court

The Traffic Division of the Superior Court of California is where the state's Department of Motor Vehicles determines whether to suspend or revoke the license of the driver, and whether to impose a fine.

GUIDANCE

GUIDANCE IN THE LEGAL PROCESS

You will likely need an attorney to help you pursue any of these avenues. An attorney can also help you gather evidence or obtain the police report. We are here to support you through the process and we can refer you to attorneys who are well versed in traffic violence in the Bay Area.

GUIDANCE IN THE INSURANCE PROCESS

Our members often find themselves needing to file insurance claims for monetary damages and/or medical expenses. The insurance process is often complicated. We recommend seeking the help of an attorney. Check our website for referrals.

JOIN FAMILIES FOR SAFE STREETS

As families and individuals who have suffered the tragic loss of a loved one or injury due to a traffic crash, we stand together to fight for change to make our streets safe for all and support one another. Join our community, to be part of this life-saving movement.

The SFBA Families for Safe Streets group meets regularly in locations throughout the Bay Area. To find out more details and join us, visit sfbafamiliesforsafestreeets.org.