

Victim's Memorial Sign Program

Purpose

On April 5, 2005, the County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a Victim's Memorial Sign Program. This program provides a framework for immediate family members of deceased victims of an intoxicated driver to request that a roadside sign be placed in honor of their lost loved one. The sign contains a statement discouraging others from driving if they have been drinking and would be placed in close proximity to the physical location of the fatal vehicular accident.

Eligibility for this program requires that the accident occur on a County maintained road within the last five years and that a determination has been made by the Court or Coroner that the victim was killed by an intoxicated driver. Please see the guidelines outlined below for additional qualification details and instructions regarding how to apply.

Fee: \$300.00

Victim's Memorial Sign Program Guidelines

1. Qualifications for a Memorial Sign

- A) At least one of the deceased victim's immediate family members requests, in writing, a memorial sign. B) The accident had occurred a maximum of five years prior to the request for a Memorial Sign.
- C) The accident occurred on a County maintained roadway.
- D) Either:
 - i. The intoxicated driver was convicted of second-degree murder, gross vehicular manslaughter, or vehicular manslaughter; or
 - ii. The intoxicated driver died or could not be prosecuted because of mental incompetence.

Note: An intoxicated driver who died does NOT qualify as a victim.
- E) There is no opposition to the installation of a memorial sign from any immediate family member.

2. Installation of Memorial Signs on County Roadways

- A) Signs will be installed in accordance with State and County standards. This includes posts, hardware, materials, and placement location. B) Only one sign will be installed in one direction of travel on the side of the street in close proximity to the intersection where it is practical to do so.
- C) Only one sign will be installed per intersection or per 1,500 feet of roadway. Should a sign exist, the victim's name will be added to the existing sign. Multiple victim names may appear on the sign.
- D) Following payment of the initial fee, the County will replace the sign at no cost to the applicant one time should it be vandalized or found missing. Actual cost of subsequent replacements after this first replacement will be borne by the applicant should they want additional replacements.
- E) The sign shall be posted and maintained for seven years from the date of initial placement.

3. How to Apply

An immediate family member of the deceased victim must submit, in writing, to the Department of Public Works a request for a memorial sign.

- A) The applicant must provide proof of conviction or proof of intoxication from coroner's records if the intoxicated driver died. (Other equally reliable sources for this information will be considered.)
- B) The applicant must provide the exact spelling of the deceased victim's name as it will appear on the memorial sign. Name of victim shall not exceed eighteen letters.
- C) Once approved, the applicant must pay a fee of \$300.00 to the County to cover the cost of administration, fabrication, and maintenance of the sign.

4. Term

The Victim's Memorial Sign Program will remain in effect only until January 1, 2012 unless it is extended by Resolution.

Victim's Memorial Sign Layout

