

# *Alameda County Children's Memorial Flag*

## *Rules and Procedures\**

The Children's Memorial Flag will be flown every time an Alameda County child under the age of eighteen dies by violent means. Public flags -- Alameda County, and the city and school of the deceased child -- will fly at half-staff under the American flag for one day, the Friday following the death of the child.

1. The Children's Memorial Flag will be flown at half-staff on a Friday for any child who was killed during the previous week, Wednesday to Wednesday. The County will take the lead when a child is killed, and notify a designated contact person at the city and school district of the child's home (*e.g.*, city manager, superintendent of schools, etc.) by phone and/or fax. Other public institutions (*e.g.*, East Bay Regional Park District) which have notified the County that they will participate in the flag lowering regardless of the child's home city, will also be notified.

2. Public bodies such as the Board of Supervisors which adjourn their public meetings in memory of a deceased child will send to the parents or family of the child a certificate, copy of board minutes, or other official record reflecting that observance.

3. On April 23, 1997, the California Assembly passed House Resolution 25, declaring the last Friday in April every year as a statewide "Children's Memorial Day." On that day the Children's Memorial Flag first flew at the State Capitol to honor all murdered children. In accordance, every participating institution in Alameda County will fly its Children's Memorial Flag every year on the fourth Friday in April.

4. Children's Memorial Flags will be lowered for a child's death after formal determination that the child died by a chargeable crime. (Examples: weapons, including guns and knives; battery, including shaking and beating; vehicles, including hit-and-run and accidents involving drinking drivers; fire, both negligent fire and arson.) Flags will not be lowered for children who die by accident where no criminal charges are filed. Flags will not be lowered for children who die while committing crimes.

*\* These protocols may be adapted for your city, county, or other jurisdiction.*