

Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Victim Services Division

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

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Visit the TDCJ website at:
www.tdcj.texas.gov

The Victim Services Division wishes to express appreciation to all the victim service organizations for their continuing support and cooperation.

If you are a victim of crime in Texas, there is help.

STATEWIDE
Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas
512-258-9920
www.cactx.org

Disabled Crime Victims Assistance, Inc.
817-338-0220
www.dcvainc.org

Justice For All
713-935-9300
www.jfa.net

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
512-445-4976
www.madd.org/tx

Office of the Attorney General
Crime Victims' Compensation Division
1-800-983-9933 or 512-936-1200
www.oag.state.tx.us

People Against Violent Crime/Tree of Angels
512-837-PAVC
www.peopleagainstviolentcrime.org

State Bar of Texas Lawyer Referral Service

1-800-252-9690 or 1-877-9TEXBAR
www.texasbar.com

Texans for Equal Justice
1-877-592-1007 or 936-537-3676
www.texansforequaljustice.org

Texas Advocacy Project
Family Violence Legal Line 1-800-374-HOPE; Sexual Assault Legal Hotline 1-888-296-SAFE; 512-476-5377
www.texasadvocacyproject.org

Texas Association Against Sexual Assault
1-800-656-HOPE or 512-474-7190
www.taasa.org

Texas CASA, Inc.
1-877-TX4-CASA or 512-473-2627
www.texascasa.org

Texas Council on Family Violence
1-800-525-1978 or 512-794-1133
www.tcfv.org

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Abuse Hotline 1-800-252-5400 or 512-438-4800
www.dfps.state.tx.us
Report Abuse www.txabusehotline.org

Texas Department of Public Safety–Victim Services
512-424-2211
Missing Persons Clearinghouse 1-800-346-3243
www.txdps.state.tx.us

Texas Juvenile Probation Commission
512-424-6700
www.tjpc.state.tx.us

Texas Youth Commission–Victim Services
1-888-850-7369
www.tyc.state.tx.us

NATIONAL
Compassionate Friends, Inc.
1-877-969-0010 or 630-990-0010
www.compassionatefriends.org

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Victim Services 1-877-MADD-HELP (24 Hrs) ; National Hotline 1-800-GET-MADD or 214-744-6233
www.madd.org

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
1-800-THE-LOST
www.missingkids.com

National Center for Victims of Crime
1-800-394-2255; 1-800-FYI-CALL; TTY 1-800-211-7996; 202-467-8700
www.ncvc.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE or TTY 1-800-787-3224
www.ndvh.org

National Organization for Victim Assistance
1-800-TRY-NOVA or 703-535-6682
www.trynova.org

Parents of Murdered Children, Inc.
1-888-818-POMC or 513-721-5683
www.pomc.org

The Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) serves as a central source of information about services and issues involving crime victims in Texas.

Texans are fortunate to have a growing coalition of professionals and volunteers who are ready to assist victims of juvenile and adult offenders.

The Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse serves victims across the state through education and training, resources and referrals, and by updating the Victim Impact Statement every odd numbered year. TxCVC produces a quarterly newsletter called *The Victim's Informer* and hosts a periodic training conference.

Through the toll-free hotline, TxCVC helps connect victims to resources. Through technical assistance and training workshops, TxCVC helps to improve the skills of victim advocates and other professionals who have contact with victims.

You may contact TxCVC at:
E-mail: tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov
Phone: 1-800-848-4284

For more information, please visit the TDCJ website at: www.tdcj.texas.gov and click on Victim Services in the Quick Links section.

We also offer online resources for victims. From the Victim Services webpage, scroll down and click on the Victim Assistance Resource Directory for referrals in your community.

Article 56.01 - DEFINITIONS

(1) "Close relative of a deceased victim" means a person who was the spouse of a deceased victim at the time of the victim's death or who is a parent or adult brother, sister, or child of the deceased victim.

(2) "Guardian of victim" means a person who is the legal guardian of the victim, whether or not the legal relationship between the guardian and the victim exists because of the age of the victim or the physical or mental incompetency of the victim.

(2-a) "Sexual assault" includes an offense under Section 21.02, Penal Code.

(3) "Victim" means a person who is the victim of the offense of sexual assault, kidnapping, aggravated robbery, trafficking of persons, or injury to a child, elderly individual, or disabled individual or who has suffered personal injury or death as a result of the criminal conduct of another.

Article 56.02 - CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS

(a) A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim is entitled to the following rights within the criminal justice system:

(1) the right to receive from law enforcement agencies adequate protection from harm and threats of harm arising from cooperation with prosecution efforts;

(2) the right to have the magistrate take the safety of the victim or his family into consideration as an element in fixing the amount of bail for the accused;

(3) the right, if requested, to be informed:

(A) by the attorney representing the state of relevant court proceedings, including appellate proceedings, and to be informed if those proceedings have been canceled or rescheduled prior to the event; and

(B) by an appellate court of decisions of the court, after the decisions are entered but before the decisions are made public;

(4) the right to be informed, when requested, by a peace officer concerning the defendant's right to bail and the procedures in criminal investigations and by the district attorney's office concerning the general procedures in the criminal justice system, including general procedures in guilty plea negotiations and arrangements, restitution, and the appeals and parole process;

(5) the right to provide pertinent information to a probation department conducting a presentencing investigation concerning the impact of the offense on the victim and his family by testimony, written statement, or any other manner prior to any sentencing of the offender;

(6) the right to receive information regarding compensation to victims of crime as provided by Subchapter B, including information related to the costs that may be compensated under that subchapter and the amount of compensation, eligibility for compensation, and procedures for application for compensation under that subchapter, the payment for a medical examination under Article 56.06 for a victim of a sexual assault, and when requested, to referral to available social service agencies that may offer additional assistance;

(7) the right to be informed, upon request, of parole procedures, to participate in the parole process, to be notified, if requested, of parole proceedings concerning a defendant in the victim's case, to provide to the Board of Pardons and Paroles for inclusion in the defendant's file information to be considered by the board prior to the parole of any defendant convicted of any crime subject to this subchapter, and to be notified, if requested, of the defendant's release;

(8) the right to be provided with a waiting area, separate or secure from other witnesses, including the offender and relatives of the offender, before testifying in any proceeding concerning the offender; if a separate waiting area is not available, other safeguards should be taken to minimize the victim's contact with the offender and the offender's relatives and witnesses, before and during court proceedings;

(9) the right to prompt return of any property of the victim that is held by a law enforcement agency or the attorney for the state as evidence when the property is no longer required for that purpose;

(10) the right to have the attorney for the state notify the employer of the victim, if requested, of the necessity of the victim's cooperation and testimony in a proceeding that may necessitate the absence of the victim from work for good cause;

(11) the right to counseling, on request, regarding acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and testing for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, antibodies to HIV, or infection with any other probable causative agent of AIDS, if the offense is an offense under Section 21.02, 21.11(a)(1), 22.011, or 22.021, Penal Code;

(12) the right to request victim-offender mediation coordinated by the victim services division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;

(13) the right to be informed of the uses of a victim impact statement and the statement's purpose in the criminal justice system, to complete the victim impact statement, and to have the victim impact statement considered:

(A) by the attorney representing the state and the judge before sentencing or before a plea bargain agreement is accepted; and

(B) by the Board of Pardons and Paroles before an inmate is released on parole;

(14) to the extent provided by Articles 56.06 and 56.065, for a victim of a sexual assault, the right to a forensic medical examination if, within 96 hours of the sexual assault, the assault is reported to a law enforcement agency or a forensic medical examination is otherwise conducted at a health care facility; and

(15) for a victim of an assault or sexual assault who is younger than 17 years of age or whose case involves family violence, as defined by Section 71.004, Family Code, the right to have the court consider the impact on the victim of a continuance requested by the defendant; if requested by the attorney representing the state or by counsel for the defendant, the court shall state on the record the reason for granting or denying the continuance.

(b) A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim is entitled to the right to be present at all public court proceedings related to the offense, subject to the approval of the judge in the case.