

Brochures and Publications

- *Your Rights, Your Voice, Your Participation brochure*: provides information on VSD programs and services
- *Texas Crime Victims' Rights booklet*: provides a list of general crime victims' rights in Texas
- *It's Your Voice brochure*: provides information on the Victim Impact Statement and how it is used in the criminal justice system
- *Do You Know Your Additional Rights? brochure*: provides a summary of additional crime victims' rights in Texas
- *Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue (VOMD) brochure*: provides information about the VOMD program and its services
- *Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse brochure*: provides information about the TxCVC and its services
- *Personal Safety Plan Booklet*: provides post-conviction safety plan tips
- *Crime Victim Assistance Standards*: provides information to aid law enforcement officers and attorneys representing the state of Texas in performing duties imposed by the Code of Criminal Procedure
- *Victim Impact Statement Recommended Processing Procedures*: provides recommendations to ensure that completed Victim Impact Statements are submitted to the TDCJ (online only)
- *Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online brochure*: provides information regarding the comprehensive foundational training, including how to register regarding the comprehensive foundational training, including how to register

All brochures & booklets are available in English and Spanish.

Quarterly Newsletter

The *Victim's Informer* newsletter provides information on new and innovative services, as well as updates and news from victim service professionals. To view online go to: https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/publications/victim_informer_newsletter.html

Victim Assistance Coordinator (VAC) Bulletin

The *VAC Bulletin* is a monthly publication distributed to local victim assistance coordinators, offering essential information specific to their role in providing services to victims. The bulletin provides information for processing the Victim Impact Statement and reporting statistics, as well as upcoming training events.

Victim Resource Directory

The Victim Resource Directory provides a searchable database of diverse resources for victims, as well as victim service and criminal justice professionals. This directory offers a comprehensive listing of national, state and local governmental and community-based agencies that provide services to victims. The directory is available through the Integrated Victim Services System (IVSS) portal: <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov/resource-search/>

Publications are available free of charge. To request publications and subscribe to the *Informer* or *VAC Bulletin*, please visit: <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov>.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

8712 Shoal Creek Blvd.
Suite 265
Austin, Texas 78757-6899

Toll-Free Hotline:
800-848-4284

Fax:
512-452-0825

E-mail:
victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov

Website:
www.tdcj.texas.gov

Integrated Victim Services System
(IVSS) Victim Portal:
<https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov>

The mission of the Victim Services Division is to provide a central mechanism for crime victims to participate in the Criminal Justice System.

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE

About Us

The Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) serves as a central source of information for victims and victim service professionals and offers training and information about crime victims' rights, needs, and services in Texas.

The TxCVC was created in 1983 and operated through the Office of the Governor. In 1996, the TxCVC was transferred to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division (VSD). The TxCVC is mandated to revise the Victim Impact Statement after every legislative session; collect Victim Impact Statement statistics from each district and county attorney's office; develop Victim Impact Statement recommended processing procedures for local jurisdictions; and develop the Crime Victim Assistance Standards for law enforcement, prosecutors, and criminal justice and victim service professionals in Texas. In addition, the TxCVC provides training for criminal justice and victim service professionals, and direct services to victims.

The goal of the TxCVC is to provide focus, leadership, and coordination necessary to continue and improve services so that victims are afforded a full measure of justice and all possible assistance.

Who We Serve

- Victims and survivors of crime
- Criminal justice and victim service professionals
- Government and community-based agencies and organizations


www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs

Victim Impact Statements

The Victim Impact Statement is vital to preserving a victim's right to be informed and to participate in the system throughout the criminal justice process. The TxCVC strives to ensure victims understand the importance of the Victim Impact Statement and their options for completing one.

The TxCVC is responsible for updating the Victim Impact Statement after each legislative session and maintaining statistics on the number of Victim Impact Statements provided each year and the crime type of victims receiving them. The TxCVC also tracks the response rate of Victim Impact Statements by county and assists with the development of processes to improve the number of Victim Impact Statements received throughout the criminal justice system.

Victim Impact Statement
Your Voice, Your Right!



▶ ATENCIÓN: Si Ud. requiere asistencia en español o tiene preguntas sobre este documento, favor de llamar al # ◀

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT PURPOSE AND IMPORTANCE

This Victim Impact Statement (VIS) will be used throughout the criminal justice system (by the prosecutor, the judge, and the parole board) to better understand the emotional/psychological, physical, and financial impact of the crime.

The contact information you provide in this Victim Impact Statement is important and will be used to contact you if you wish to receive case information from:

- Community Supervision and Corrections Department (probation);
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice (prison); and
- Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Please return
the Confidential Victim Contact Information page and
the Victim Impact Statement to the Victim Assistance Coordinator at
the agency assisting you.

Keep this page for your records.

TO BE COMPLETED BY VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

Victim Assistance Coordinator:		
Agency:		
Mailing Address:		
City:	ZIP:	
Work Phone:	Fax:	
Email:	Date Received:	
Defendant(s) Name (Last, First MI)	Case/Cause No.	TDCJ/SID No.

For more information regarding the Victim Services Division, please call 800-848-4284 or email the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse at tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov.

SERVICES

Technical Assistance

The TxCVC offers specialized technical assistance designed to enhance the criminal justice system's response to victims and improve the quality of services provided. Examples include providing information on crime victims' rights, the post-conviction process, mandates applicable to the Victim Impact Statement, and bringing criminal justice professionals and community organizations together to better meet the needs of victims. Technical assistance can be customized to meet the unique needs of individual agencies and organizations.

Training

The TxCVC provides evidence-based, victim-centered training on best practices. Our staff is available to participate in local, state, and national training events.

Training content and topics can be developed, customized, and integrated to meet your specific educational needs and can vary in length. The TxCVC often partners with other statewide and local agencies and professionals to provide training. The TxCVC is committed to providing training that meets the individualized needs of communities working to enhance services provided to victims. All TxCVC trainings are provided free of charge.

The Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online provides four hours of foundational level victim assistance training. More information is available online at https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs/tvat_online.html.

The TVAT Academy is an in-person, three and one-half day foundational level victim assistance training for new victim service providers, and allied professionals with less than three years' experience who routinely work with victims of crime.

The TxCVC also hosts monthly webinars that cover various topics beneficial for victims, victim service professionals, and criminal justice professionals.

Information about additional training opportunities is available on Integrated Victim Services System (IVSS) at <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov/search-training-event/>

Regional Victim Services Coordinators

The TxCVC has strategically-placed regional victim services coordinators who provide direct services to crime victims and training to victim service and criminal justice professionals. Regional victim services coordinators assist with developing and maintaining relationships with local victim service professionals in district and county attorney offices, law enforcement agencies, community-based organizations and regional coalition or task force groups.

Direct services available to victims upon request, include but are not limited to:

- Assistance with exercising crime victim's rights post-conviction
- Assistance during the parole review process
- Criminal justice accompaniment

Execution Process Assistance

The VSD works with the victims' families during the execution process. As many as five relatives and/or close friends of the victim, plus a spiritual advisor, may witness the execution of the inmate. Victims may also bring three support persons who will not witness the execution. The TxCVC staff will prepare and accompany both victim witnesses and their support persons during the entire execution process. The TxCVC staff also provides follow-up support and referrals as needed.

