

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS AS A VICTIM OF CRIME?

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS IN TEXAS

1. The right to PROTECTION from harm and threats of harm arising from cooperation with prosecution efforts
2. The right to have your SAFETY, and that of your family, taken into consideration when bail is being considered
3. The right to receive INFORMATION about the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund
4. The right to INFORMATION about procedures in criminal investigations and in the criminal justice system
5. The right to be INFORMED about court proceedings
6. The right to COMPLETE a Victim Impact Statement, detailing the impact of the offense upon you and your family, and to have that statement considered during sentencing and any parole action
7. The right to be PRESENT at all public court proceedings related to the offense
8. The right to a SAFE waiting area for court proceedings
9. The right to have the prosecutor NOTIFY your employer that the need for your testimony may involve your absence from work

10. The right to prompt RETURN of any property that is no longer needed as evidence
11. The right to provide INFORMATION to a probation department conducting a pre-sentence investigation
12. The right to be NOTIFIED about parole proceedings
13. The right to receive INFORMATION about defense-initiated victim outreach in capital felony cases if approved by the court

ADDITIONAL RIGHTS FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

1. The right to a FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAM within 120 hours of the offense
2. The right to be INFORMED regarding evidence collected and NOTIFIED of the status of analysis of evidence, unless disclosure would interfere with an investigation or prosecution
3. The right to receive COUNSELING and TESTING, upon request, regarding AIDS, HIV, and AIDS and HIV related infections
4. The right to DESIGNATE a person to receive any notices requested
5. The right to REQUEST a protective order be filed on your behalf

A complete listing of these rights and your additional rights are available in the "Texas Crime Victims' Rights" booklet and "Additional Rights" brochure.

Call 800-848-4284 to order a copy of these brochures or access these rights online:
https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/documents/Texas_Crime_Victim_Rights_English.pdf

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.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS & SERVICES

For TDCJ
 STAFF

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE:

Call the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division (VSD) for assistance in determining the status of your case and for information about crime victims' rights. Please identify yourself as a TDCJ employee whose case is being investigated by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

WHO CAN I TALK TO?

Crisis Response Intervention Support Program (CRISP) teams are made up of dedicated volunteer employees, throughout the TDCJ, who are trained to work with peers following a crisis.

Every unit and most offices have a CRISP Team. Please ask your supervisor, human resources representative, or warden if you would like to speak with a CRISP team member.

WHERE CAN I FIND LOCAL RESOURCES?

Among other duties, the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) is a resource and referral center for crime victims. The TxCVC offers the Texas Victim Resource Directory, which is an online listing of resources by city and county, available on the Integrated Victim Services System (IVSS) portal at <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov>. You can also call the VSD toll-free hotline at **800-848-4284** Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM for assistance with these resources.

The VSD staff can assist you in completing and submitting the CVC form. You may reach them by calling 1-800-848-4284.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

*Dedicated to providing direct, personal services to victims and their families.
To contact the VSD Office, please call 800-848-4284 or email victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov.*



WHAT IF I NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) Fund may reimburse victims of violent crime for certain out-of-pocket expenses that are incurred as the result of the crime. Examples of these expenses are medical bills, funeral costs, and needed counseling as a result of a sexual assault, family violence, kidnapping, aggravated robbery, assault, homicide, child abuse, and other crimes where the victim suffers physical or emotional harm or death. The CVC forms are available on the OAG's website.

Contact the CVC Program at:

P.O. Box 12198
Austin, Texas 78711
Telephone: 800-983-9933
Fax: 512-936-1800
Email: crimevictims@oag.texas.gov

Apply Online:

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/crime-victims/crime-victims-compensation-program>

PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A TDCJ EMPLOYEE AND YOU WILL BE REFERRED TO A VSD EMPLOYEE FOR ASSISTANCE.

HOW DO I STAY INFORMED?

IVSS uses a confidential database to provide registrants with notifications regarding the status of offenders in the TDCJ Correctional Institutions Division (CID) or under the supervision of the TDCJ Parole Division. Notifications are available via email, letter, text, phone, or any combination of your choosing. IVSS provides notifications concerning phases of the criminal justice system post-conviction including the parole review process, release to supervision or discharge, and warrant actions during periods of supervision. All registrations through IVSS are kept completely confidential.



**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
Investigations Line:**

936-437-5103

WHAT IF THE SUBJECT IS CHARGED?

Either the local district attorney's (DA) office or the Special Prosecution Unit (SPU) will review your case for possible prosecution. The VSD can provide you with the contact information for your local DA. The SPU's Victim Assistance Coordinator can be reached at:

340 Highway 75 North, Suite A
Huntsville, Texas 77320
Telephone: 936-291-2369 ext. 231
Fax: 936-291-0845

OTHER ASSISTANCE FROM TDCJ

If you haven't already been contacted, please contact your human resources representative for information regarding the Employee Assistance Program and the Workers' Compensation Program.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND PHONE NUMBERS

OIG Investigator

OIG Investigator's Contact Information

OIG Case Number

You may call this telephone number for information about your case status and victims' rights.