

Murphy Police Department

Information and Assistance Programs for Crime Victims and Their Families



972-468-4200

Victim Services

The Victim Assistance Program exists to provide assistance to crime victims and their families. Services provided include:

- Crisis intervention, crisis counseling, and counseling referrals;
- Assistance in applying for and filing Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) claims;
- Safety planning, including referrals to family violence shelters;
- Criminal justice support and advocacy;
- Assistance obtaining Emergency and Permanent Protective Orders;
- Referral to appropriate social service agencies for financial and legal assistance;
- Court accompaniment for Permanent Protective Order hearings and Grand Jury subpoenas;
- Notification of victim rights;
- Assistance in Evidence Return;
- Training to police officers.

Information for Victims and Families:

Medical Treatment:

All Emergencies	Dial 911
Baylor Scott & White Health Hospital Murphy.....	214-294-6150
Baylor Scott & White Health Hospital Wylie.....	972-520-9900
Methodist Richardson Medical Center Hospital Richardson....	469-204-1000
Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano	972-981-8000
Medical City of Plano	972-596-6800

If you require immediate medical treatment, the 911 operator will arrange emergency medical treatment or transportation, by ambulance, to the nearest receiving hospital. All costs for transportation and medical treatment are the responsibility of the victim. You may be eligible for reimbursement of cost, by applying for Crime Victim's Compensation. Medical Examinations for sexual assault victims will be provided at no cost (Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 56.065).

Resource List:

• 24-Hour Numbers

Hope's Door (family violence shelter)	972-276-0057
Peaceful Oasis (family violence shelter).....	972-880-4192
Turning Point (for victims of sexual assault).....	1-800-886-7273
Child Protective Services (24 hr. reporting)	1-800-252-5400
LifePath Mobile Crisis Outreach Team	1-877-422-5939
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.....	988
Murphy Police Department Non-emergency Line.....	972-468-4200

• Other Resources:

Hope's Door New Beginning Center.....	972-422-2911
Texas Muslim Women's Foundation	469-467-6241
Family Place.....	214-559-2170
Legal Aid of Northwest Texas.....	972-542-9405
District Attorney, Protective Order Unit	972-548-4323
Crime Victims' Compensation	1-800-983-9933
National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-7233
Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice.....	1-800-848-4284
Victim Services	
Texas Advocacy Project Hope Line.....	1-800-374-4673
Legal Aid for Survivors of Sexual Assault	1-844-303-7233
Texas Youth Helpline	1-800-989-6884

Information for Victims and Families:

Resource List:

- **Other Resources:** *(cont.)*
- Collin County District Attorney Victim Assistance
2100 Bloomdale Rd, Ste. 100
McKinney, TX 75071
972-548-4435

You may call the law enforcement agency's telephone number for the status of the case and information about victims' rights.

Victim Notification for Crime Victims

If you are the victim of a crime, you have the right to know what's happening with your case and the offender.

System Change Effective September 1, 2025

Texas has transitioned from VINE to a new victim notification system, Texas IVSS-Counties (Integrated Victim Services System), provided by Sylogist. Please see attached Victim Notification - Texas IVSS for information.

If you were already registered with VINE, your registration has been carried over to the new system, so you do not need to re-register. When you first log into the portal, you will be prompted to update your password. We encourage you to log in, explore the updated features and design, and review your preferences to ensure your notifications are set exactly as you want them. Your text and phone notifications will continue, but they will now come from a different provider.

Your Rights as a Victim

If you've been the victim of a violent crime, you deserve to know what's happening with your case and the offender. You have legal rights to stay informed about the offender's conviction, sentence, imprisonment, and release. [These rights are protected by the Texas Constitution.](#)

Important to Remember

While Texas IVSS-Counties is a valuable tool to help you stay informed, it is **not** a guarantee of safety. It's important to always take additional steps to protect yourself, and to reach out to local crime victim service providers at your district attorney's office, law enforcement agency, or supervising agency for further support. Not all Texas counties are set up with Texas IVSS-Counties. Check the Texas IVSS-Counties portal to see if your county participates.

Rights of Crime Victims

As defined in Article 56A.051 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, a victim is defined as a person who is the victim of the offense of sexual assault, kidnapping, aggravated robbery, trafficking of persons, injury to a child/elderly/disabled individual, family violence, or stalking, or someone who has suffered personal injury or death as a result of the criminal conduct of another; or is the victim of an offense committed under Section 25.07, 25.071, or 25.072, penal code, if the violation that is an element of the offense occurred through the commission of an assault, aggravated assault, or sexual assault or the offense of stalking, regardless of whether that violation occurred with respect to a person whose relationship to or association with the defendant is described by Section 71.0021 (b), 71.003, or 71.005, of the Family code.

(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 a law enforcement agency adequate protection from harm and threats of harm arising from cooperation with prosecution efforts;

- (2) The right to have the magistrate consider the safety of the victim or the victim's family in setting the amount of bail for the defendant;
- (3) if requested, the right to be informed in the manner provided by Article 56A.0525:
- (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 before the event;
 - (B) by the sentencing court of a modification or amendment to the defendant's sentence, not later than three days after the date on which the modification or amendment was made; and
 - (C) by an appellate court of the court's decisions, after the decisions are entered but before the decisions are made public;
- 4) When requested, the right to be informed in the manner provided by Article 56A.0525:
- (A) by a peace officer concerning the defendant's right to bail and the procedures in criminal investigations; and
 - (B) by the office of the attorney representing the state concerning:
 - (i) the general procedures in the criminal justice system, including general procedures in guilty plea negotiations and arrangements, restitution, and the appeals and parole process; and
 - (ii) whether the defendant has fully complied with any conditions of the defendant's bail;
- 5) The right to provide pertinent information to a community supervision and corrections department conducting a presentencing investigation concerning the impact of the offense on the victim and the victim's family by testimony, written statement, or any other manner before any sentencing of the defendant;
- 6) The right to receive information, in the manner provided by Article 56A.0525:
- (A) regarding compensation to victims of crime as provided by Chapter 56B, including information related to the costs that may be compensated under that chapter and the amount of compensation, eligibility for compensation, and procedures for application for compensation under that chapter;
 - (B) for a victim of a sexual assault, regarding the payment under Subchapter G for a forensic medical examination and for any prescribed continuing medical care that is related to the sexual assault and provided to the victim during the 30-day period following that examination, as provided by Subchapter G; and
 - (C) when requested, providing a referral to available social service agencies that may offer additional assistance;
- 7) The right to:
- (A) be informed, on request, and in the manner provided by Article 56A.0525 of parole procedures;
 - (B) participate in the parole process;
 - (C) provide to the board for inclusion in the defendant's file information to be considered by the board before the parole of any defendant convicted of any offense subject to this chapter; and
 - (D) be notified in the manner provided by Article 56A.0525, unless waived as provided by Article 56A.1511, of :
 - (i) parole proceedings concerning a defendant in the victim's case;
 - (ii) the defendant's release on parole for the offense involving the victim, including the county in which the defendant is required to reside, and the nonconfidential conditions of the defendant's parole, including any condition:
 - (a) prohibiting the defendant from going near the victim's home or work; or

- (b) requiring the defendant to complete a battering intervention and prevention program established under Article 42.141;
- (iii) any offense with which the defendant is charged while released on parole for the offense involving the victim, if the department is aware of the offense;
- (iv) the issuance of any warrant under Section 508.251, Government Code, for the return of the defendant; and
- (v) any revocation of the defendant's parole for the offense involving the victim;

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

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

10) The right to have the attorney representing the state notify the victim's employer, if requested, that the victim's cooperation and testimony is necessary in a proceeding that may require the victim to be absent from work for good cause;

11) The right to request victim-offender mediation coordinated by the victim services division of the department;

12) The right to be informed, in the manner provided by Article 56A.0525, of the uses of a victim impact statement and the statement's purpose in the criminal justice system as described by Subchapter D, 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 before a defendant is released on parole;

13) For a victim of assault, or aggravated 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 the defendant's attorney, the court shall state on the record the reason for granting or denying the continuance; and

14) If the offense is a capital felony, the right to:

- (A) receive by mail from the court a written explanation of defense-initiated victim outreach if the court has authorized expenditures for a defense-initiated victim outreach specialist;
- (B) not be contacted by the victim outreach specialist unless the victim, guardian, or relative has consented to the contact by providing a written notice to the court; and
- (C) designate a victim service provider to receive all communications from a victim outreach specialist acting on behalf of any person.

(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.

(c) The office of the attorney representing the state and the sheriff, police, and other law enforcement agencies shall ensure to the extent practicable that a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim is provided the rights granted by this subchapter and, on request, an explanation of those rights.

(d) An Advocate for a victim is entitled to obtain on behalf of the victim the information described by Subsection (a) (7) (D).

ADDITIONAL RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF CERTAIN SEXUAL, TRAFFICKING, OR BURGLARY OFFENSES (Art. 56A.052)

(a) A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim of an offense continuous sexual abuse of young child or disabled individual, indecency with a child, sexual assault, indecent assault, or aggravated sexual assault, under the penal code is entitled to the following rights within the criminal justice system:

(1) If requested, the right to a disclosure of information, in the manner provided by Article 56A.0525, regarding:

- (A) any evidence that was collected during the investigation of the offense, unless disclosing the information would interfere with the investigation or prosecution of the offense, in which event the victim, guardian, or relative shall be informed of the estimated date on which that information is expected to be disclosed; and
- (B) the status of any analysis being performed on any evidence described by Paragraph (A);

(2) If requested, the right to be notified in the manner provided by Article 56A.525:

- (A) at the time a request is submitted to a crime laboratory to process and analyze any evidence that was collected during the investigation of the offense;
- (B) at the time of the submission of a request to compare any biological evidence collected during the investigation of the offense with DNA profiles maintained in a state or federal DNA database; and
- (C) of the results of the comparison described by Paragraph (B), unless disclosing the results would interfere with the investigation or prosecution of the offense, in which event the victim, guardian, or relative shall be informed of the estimated date on which those results are expected to be disclosed;

(3) If requested, the right to counseling regarding acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection; and

(4) if requested, the right to be informed about, and confer with the attorney representing the state regarding, the dispositions of the offense, including sharing the victim's, guardian's, or relative's views regarding:

- (A) a decision not to file charges;
- (B) the dismissal of charges;
- (C) the use of a pretrial intervention program; or
- (D) a plea bargain agreement; and

(5) For the victim, the right to:

- (A) 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;
- (B) a forensic medical examination to the extent provided by Subchapter G; and
- (C) any prescribed continuing medical care that is related to the sexual assault

and provided to the victim during the 30-day period following a forensic medical examination, as provided by Subchapter G.

(b) A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim who requests to be notified under Subsection (a) (2) must provide a current address and phone number to the attorney representing the state and the law enforcement agency that is investigating the offense.—The victim, guardian, or relative must inform the attorney representing the state and the law enforcement agency of any change in the address or phone number. The victim, guardian, or relative must provide an e-mail address and update any change in that e-mail address if the victim, guardian, or relative chooses to receive notifications by e-mail.

(b) Subject to Subsection (c) a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim who requests to be notified or receive information under Subsection (a) (1) (2), or (4) must:

(1) provide a current address and phone number to the attorney representing the state and the law enforcement agency that is investigating the offense; and

(2) inform the attorney representing the state and the law enforcement agency of any change in the address or phone number.

(C) A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim may designate a person, including an entity that provides services to victims of an offense described by subsection (a), to receive any notice requested under subsection (a)(2). This person may not be the person charged with the offense.

(d) This subsection applies only to a victim of an offense of **trafficking of persons, continuous trafficking of persons, continuous sexual abuse of young child or disabled individual, indecency with a child, sexual assault, indecent assault, aggravated sexual assault, burglary of a habitation, or compelling prostitution** penal code is entitled to the following rights within the criminal justice system. A victim described by this subsection or a parent or guardian of the victim, if the victim is younger than 18 years of age or an adult ward, is entitled to the following rights within the criminal justice system:

(1) The right to be informed in the manner provided by Article 56A.0525:

(A) that the victim or, if the victim is younger than 18 years of age or an adult ward, the victim's parent or guardian or another adult acting on the victim's behalf may file an application for a protective order under Article 7B.001;

(B) of the court in which the application for a protective order may be filed;

(C) that, on request of the victim or, if the victim is younger than 18 years of age or an adult ward, on request of the victim's parent or guardian or another adult acting on the victim's behalf, the attorney representing the state may, subject to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, file the application for a protective order on behalf of the requestor; and

(D) that, subject to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, the attorney representing the state generally is required to file the application for a protective order with respect to the victim if the defendant is convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for the offense;

(2) The right to:

(A) request that the attorney representing the state, subject to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, file an application for a protective order described by Subdivision (1); and

(B) be notified in the manner provided by Article 56A.0525 when the attorney representing the state files an application for a protective order under Article 7B.001;

(3) If the victim or the victim's parent or guardian, as applicable, is present when the defendant is convicted or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision, the right to:

(A) be given by the court the information described by Subdivision (1); and (1), in the manner provided by Article 56A.0525;

(B) file an application for a protective order under Article 7B.001 immediately following the defendant's conviction or placement on deferred adjudication community supervision if the court has jurisdiction over the application; and

(4) if the victim or the victim's parent or guardian, as applicable, is not present when the defendant is convicted or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision, the right to be given by the attorney representing the state the information described by Subdivision (1), in the manner provided by Article 56A.0525.

(e) A victim of an offense of Trafficking of Person, Continuous Trafficking of Persons, or Compelling Prostitution, is entitled to be informed, in the manner provided by Article 56A.0525, that the victim may petition for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information under Section 411.0728, Government Code, if the victim:

(1) has been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense described by Subsection (a)(1) of that section; and

(2) committed that offense solely as a victim of an offense of Trafficking of Persons, Continuous Trafficking of Persons, or Compelling Prostitution.

ADDITIONAL RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF CERTAIN FAMILY VIOLENCE OFFENSES, STALKING, AND VIOLATION OF PROTECTIVE ORDER OR CONDITION OF BOND (56A.0521)

(a) This article applies only to an offense:

(1) involving family violence;

(2) Stalking; or

(3) Violation of certain court orders or conditions of bond in a family violence, child abuse or neglect, sexual assault or abuse, indecent assault, stalking, or trafficking case, violation of protective order preventing offense caused by bias or prejudice, or repeated violation of certain court orders or conditions of bond in family violence, child abuse or neglect, sexual assault or abuse, indecent assault, stalking or trafficking case if a violation that is an element of the offense occurred through the commission of an assault, aggravated assault, or sexual assault or the offense of stalking, regardless of whether that violation occurred with respect to a person whose relationship to or association with the defendant is described by Section 71.0021(b), 71.003, or 71.005, Family Code.

(b) A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim of an offense described by Subsection (a) is entitled to the following rights within the criminal justice system:

(1) if requested, the right to a disclosure of information regarding:

(A) any evidence that was collected during the investigation of the offense, unless disclosing the information would interfere with the investigation or prosecution of the offense, in which event the victim, guardian, or relative shall be informed of the estimated date on which that information is expected to be disclosed; and

(B) the status of any analysis being performed on any evidence described by Paragraph (A);

(2) if requested, the right to be notified at the time a request is submitted to a crime laboratory to process and analyze any evidence that was collected during the investigation of the offense;

(3) if requested, the right to be informed about, and confer with the attorney representing the state regarding, the disposition of the offense, including sharing the victim's, guardian's, or relative's views regarding:

- (A) a decision not to file charges;
- (B) the dismissal of charges;
- (C) the use of a pretrial intervention program; or
- (D) a plea bargain agreement;

(4) the right to be notified that the attorney representing the state does not represent the victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim; and

(5) for an offense under Section 42.072, Penal Code, all of the rights provided to victims, parents, and guardians as described by Article 56A.052(d), for the offenses to which that subsection applies.

(c) Subject to Subsection (d), a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim who requests to be notified or receive information under Subsection (b) must:

- (1) provide a current address and phone number to the attorney representing the state and the law enforcement agency that is investigating the offense;
- (2) inform the attorney representing the state and the law enforcement agency of any change in the address or phone number; and
- (3) if the victim, guardian, or relative chooses to receive notifications by e-mail, provide an e-mail address and update any change in that e-mail address.

(d) A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim may designate a person, including an entity that provides services to victims of an offense described by Subsection (a), to receive any notice requested under Subsection (b)(2). This person may not be the person charged with the offense.

(e) If a victim of an offense described by Subsection (a) is also entitled to additional rights under Article 56A.052, or if a conflict exists between this article and Article 56A.052, that article controls.

Art. 56A.0525. AUTHORIZED FORM OF NOTIFICATIONS.

For purposes of this subchapter, a judge, attorney representing the state, peace officer, or law enforcement agency that is required to notify, inform, or disclose information to a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim in accordance with a right granted under this subchapter shall provide the notification or information in the following manner:

- (1) electronically, including by text message, videoconference, or e-mail;
- (2) by mail;
- (3) through an anonymous, online portal; or
- (4) by contacting by telephone or otherwise making personal contact with the victim, guardian, or relative, as applicable.

Crime Victim's Compensation section

Code of Criminal Procedure Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Act, Chapter 56, Subchapter B

Purpose: Texas Crime Victim's Compensation is a program that can assist with certain crime-related expenses for eligible victims.

Administered by: The Office of the Attorney General, Crime Victims' Compensation Division located in Austin, Texas.

Crime Victim's Compensation may be available to pay the amount of expense reasonably and necessarily incurred for:

- (A) medical, hospital, nursing, or psychiatric care or counseling, or physical therapy;
- (B) actual loss of past earnings and anticipated loss of future earnings and necessary travel expenses because of:
 - (i) a disability resulting from the personal injury;
 - (ii) the receipt of medically indicated services related to the disability; or
 - (iii) participation in or attendance at investigative, prosecutorial, or judicial processes or any postconviction or post adjudication proceeding relating to criminally injurious conduct;
- (C) care of a child or dependent
- (D) funeral and burial expenses, including, for a family member or household member of the victim, the necessary expenses of traveling to and attending the funeral;
- (E) loss of support to a dependent
- (F) reasonable and necessary costs of cleaning the crime scene;
- (G) reasonable replacement costs for clothing, bedding, or property of the victim seized as evidence or rendered unusable as a result of the criminal investigation;
- (H) reasonable and necessary costs for relocation and housing rental assistance payments as provided by Articles 56B.106(c) and (c-1);
- (I) for a family member or household member of a deceased victim, bereavement leave;
- (J) reasonable and necessary costs of traveling to and from a place of execution to witness the execution, including lodging near the place where the execution is conducted; and
- (K) tattoo removal for victims of trafficking

Reimbursement for property damage or loss is not an eligible expense.

In order to qualify for Crime Victims' Compensation:

- 1) The crime must be reported to law enforcement within a reasonable amount of time of the commission of the crime unless there are justified extraordinary circumstances.
- 2) Claim must be filed within three years unless good cause can be shown as to why the claim wasn't filed.
- 3) The victim must cooperate with law enforcement and prosecution efforts.
- 4) The victim must be the innocent victim of a violent crime who suffers personal injury or an intervener who goes to the aid of another and is killed or injured in the good faith effort to prevent criminally injurious conduct, to apprehend a person reasonably suspected of having engaged in criminally injurious conduct, or to aid a peace officer.

The Collin County Victim Advocates will assist you in applying for benefits from Crime Victims' Compensation.

Notice to Adult Victims of Sexual Assault

It is a crime for any person to cause you any physical injury or harm.

Please tell the investigating peace officer IF you have been injured or if you feel you are going to be in danger when the officer leaves or at a later time.

You have the right to:

- (1) obtain a forensic medical examination within 120 hours of the assault to collect potential evidence and receive preventative medications, even if you decide not to make a report to a law enforcement agency;
- (2) anonymously track or receive updates regarding the status and location of each item of evidence collected in your case;
- (3) have a sexual assault program advocate present during a forensic medical examination;
- (4) have a sexual assault program advocate or other victim's representative present during an investigative interview with law enforcement;
- (5) ask the local prosecutor to file a criminal complaint against the person who assaulted you and;
- (6) If a defendant is arrested for a crime against you involving certain sexual crimes, stalking, or trafficking you can:
 - (A) request an order for emergency protection to be issued by a magistrate;
 - (B) using procedures provided by Chapter 58, Code of Criminal Procedure, request a pseudonym to be used instead of your name in all public files and records concerning the offense; and
 - (C) apply to a court for a permanent order to protect you (you should consult a legal aid office, a prosecuting attorney, or a private attorney).

For example, the court can enter an order that prohibits the person who assaulted you from:

- (1) committing further acts of violence;
- (2) threatening, harassing, or contacting you or a member of your family or household; and
- (3) going near your place of employment or near a child care facility or school attended by you or a member of your family or household.

You cannot be charged a fee by a court in connection with filing, serving, or entering a protective order.

If you have questions about the status of your case or need assistance you may contact the Murphy Police Department at 972-468-4228.

If you would like to speak with someone in the Collin County District Attorney's office you may reach their victim assistance coordinator at 972-548-4323 located at 2100 Bloomdale Rd McKinney, TX 75071.

Call the following sexual assault program or social service organization if you need assistance or wish to speak with an advocate:

- **Turning Point: 1-800-886-7273**
- **RAINN National Hotline: 1-800-656-4673**

You may receive a sexual assault forensic medical examination at the following location(s):

- **Courtney's Safe Place: 1-800-886-7273**
- **Or any local hospital emergency room.**

To get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline call: 1-88-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).

What is a Protective Order?

A protective order is a civil legal remedy for the use and protection of victims of family violence, sexual assault or abuse, human trafficking, indecent assault, stalking, or burglary of a habitation that is criminally enforceable.

“Family Violence” means: (1) an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, or that is a threat that reasonably places the

member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself; or (2) abuse, by a member of a family or household toward a child of the family or house hold. **“Family”**-includes individuals related by consanguinity or affinity (blood or marriage), individuals who are former spouses of each other, individuals who are the biological parents of the same child, without regard to marriage, and a foster child and foster parent, without regard to whether those individuals reside together. **“Household”** means a unit composed of persons living together in the same dwelling, without regard to whether they are related to each other.

“Member of a household” includes a person who previously lived in a household.

“Dating violence” means an act by an individual that is against another individual with whom that person has or has had a dating relationship and that is intended to result in in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the individual in fear or imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself. Dating violence also includes acts committed against the new spouse or dating partner of someone the abuser is/was married to or in a dating relationship with.

What can a Protective Order prohibit?

Protective orders may prohibit the abuser from:

- 1) Committing any acts of violence against the protected person(s) or any member of their family/household;
- 2) Communicating directly with the protected individual(s)
- 3) Communicating with the protected individual in a threatening or harassing manner;
- 4) Going within a specified distance of applicant’s home, place of employment, school or daycare;
- 5) Possessing a firearm;
- 6) Removing or harming pets or companion animals; and/or
- 7) Tracking or monitoring personal property or motor vehicle in the possession of the applicant or of a member of the applicant’s family or household, without the applicant’s consent including by:
 - a) Using a tracking application on a personal electronic device in the possession of the applicant or the family or household member or using a tracking device; or
 - b) Physically following the applicant or the family or household member or causing another to physically follow the applicant or member.

How do I obtain a Protective Order?

You can obtain a protective order by filing an application with a Family Law Court in Collin County. You may file with the assistance of an attorney or pro se. You can also contact the Protective Order Unit at the District Attorney’s office to determine if that office can represent you. A domestic violence protective order may be in effect for up to 2 years. Protective orders for sexual assault or abuse, human trafficking, indecent assault, stalking, or burglary of a habitation can be in effect for up to a lifetime. It may take 2-4 weeks to complete the process and obtain a final protective order. You may contact Collin County Victim Services or Hope’s Door if you have questions, need help in applying for a Protective Order. You may contact the Murphy Police Department or Collin County Victim Services for help with planning for your safety in the meantime.

You may be able to obtain a Magistrate’s Order for Emergency Protection if the abuser is arrested. At the time of arraignment, the magistrate may grant an Emergency Protective Order at the request of a peace officer or a victim provided the abuser is still in custody. **The Emergency Protective Order is good for 61-121 days. If you want to apply for the Emergency Protective Order, let the arresting officer know and he/she will explain to you how to obtain the order. If the officer has already left, re-contact the Murphy Police Department.**

Will a Protective Order prevent Family Violence?

A Protective Order can deter violence and provide the police and courts additional authority to intervene in family violence cases and to punish those who commit family violence, but it is not a shield that truly stops the next violent act from occurring. Most violent relationships become more dangerous and more violent over time, not less violent. If you feel you are in danger, please contact the Murphy Police Department.

Your **RIGHTS** as a Survivor of Family Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, Harassment or Terroristic Threat



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

*If you feel unsafe, getting support can help you understand your options and feel safer. While ending an abusive relationship or seeking help, threats or violence can increase. Some warning signs of increased risk may include jealousy, controlling finances or your movements, isolating you from friends or family, verbal abuse, threats to harm or kill you, and physical abuse including strangulation. **If you are in immediate danger, call 911 right away.***

You are not alone. There are resources and support to help you.

Scan the QR code to learn more about your rights and resources.



24/7 Resources and Support

These confidential 24/7 hotlines can help with safety planning, shelter and support.

National Domestic Violence Hotline

The National Domestic Violence Hotline can connect you with an advocate who can provide safety plans, discuss options, and offer resources in your area.

- Call: **800-799-SAFE** (7233)
- TTY: **800-787-3224**
- Chat online: thehotline.org
- Text: “**START**” to **88788**

National Sexual Assault Hotline – RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network)

If you have been sexually assaulted, consider contacting the RAINN Hotline to connect with a trained staff member from a local sexual assault service provider in your area.

- Call: **800-656-HOPE** (4673)
- Chat online: hotline.rainn.org

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Anyone can call, text or chat with the **988 Lifeline** to get connected to trained counselors at over 200 local crisis centers.

- Chat online: 988lifeline.org/chat
- Call or text: **988**

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You Have Rights and Options

If you, your child or any other household member has been injured, or if you feel you are going to be in danger when the officer leaves or at a later time, you have the right to ask your local law enforcement agency to file a criminal complaint against the person committing family violence. You can also apply for a court order to protect you.

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To learn more about how reports and complaints are filed, visit the **Texas Family Violence Program** resources page at hhs.texas.gov/fvp-resources.

If you need help with filing a report or criminal complaint, protective orders, lease termination or anything else, call the **Texas Advocacy Project** for free and confidential assistance at **800-374-HOPE (4673)** or visit texasadvocacyproject.org.

The **Texas Department of Public Safety** also has victim services counselors who are available to help you navigate the criminal justice process and access your rights as a crime victim. To locate a victim services counselor in your area, visit the **Victim Services Counselors Regional Directory** at dps.texas.gov/section/victim-employment-support-services-vess/regional-victim-services-counselors, call **512-424-2211** or visit dps.texas.gov/section/victim-employment-support-services-vess/victim-support-services.

It's your right to choose which of these options are best for you.

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Protective Orders

A protective order is a legal document requiring someone stay away from you and gives you legal protection. In some cases, it can even remove someone from your shared home. This option is available if you have experienced family violence, dating violence, sexual assault, abuse, stalking, harassment or human trafficking.

In Texas there are three different types of protective orders:

- Magistrate's Order of Emergency Protection
- Final Protective Order
- Temporary Ex Parte Protective Order

To learn more about protective orders, visit the Texas Family Violence Program resources page at hhs.texas.gov/fvp-resources.

Your local county or district attorney or Texas Advocacy Project can often help you get a protective order for free. To learn more, visit texaslawhelp.org/toolkit/i-need-protective-order.

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Lease Termination

You may be able to legally end your lease without penalty. To do so, you will need to have at least one of the following documents:

- A temporary injunction, issued as part of a divorce proceeding.
- Any of the protective orders listed above.
- A document regarding family violence against the tenant or occupant from at least one of the following:
 - » A licensed health care services provider who examined you.
 - » A licensed mental health services provider who examined or evaluated you.
 - » An advocate at a family violence center who helped you.

To learn more, visit texaslawhelp.org/article/early-lease-termination-for-victims-of-family-violence. For more information and certification forms, visit tcfv.org/find-help/survivor-resources and click on the Lease Termination tab under Moving Forward.

It's a criminal offense for any person, including a member of the family or former member of the family, to cause physical injury or harm to a victim or to engage in conduct constituting stalking, harassment or terroristic threat.

12/1/2023

Texas IVSS-Counties is a free automated service that allows you to receive notifications on changes in custody status in Texas.

Notes



- Texas IVSS-Counties is confidential. The individual in custody will not know you are registered.
- You can register multiple phone numbers and email addresses for notifications.
- Texas IVSS-Counties is free to use and phone assistance is available 24/7/365 days per year.

LOCAL & NATIONAL RESOURCES

**Crime Victims' Compensation Program
Office of the Texas Attorney General**
(800) 983-9933

**Victim Services Division
Texas Department of Criminal Justice**
(800) 848-4284

Texas Association Against Sexual Assault
(512) 474-7190

Texas Council on Family Violence
(888) 450-8238

National Domestic Violence Hotline
(800) 799-SAFE (7233)

Texas Advocacy Project
(800) 374-HOPE (4673)

**Child and Elder Abuse Hotline
Texas Department of Family and
Protective Services**
(800) 252-5400

**National Center for Missing and
Exploited Children**
(800) 843-5678

TEXAS INTEGRATED VICTIM SERVICES SYSTEM (IVSS) COUNTY



TEXAS STATEWIDE AUTOMATED
VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM



Scan this QR code
to visit our website

SCAN ME

“Your voice matters. Your choices
matter. Your safety matters.”

866-268-8959

lvss-counties.tdcj.texas.gov

A Safer Way to Stay Informed

WHAT IS TEXAS IVSS-COUNTIES?

The IVSS & IVSS-Countries systems provide victims, survivors, and concerned citizens with timely and reliable information about offenders and criminal justice events. The purpose is to support victim notification, case information access, and service referrals through a centralized, automated platform, helping ensure victims are informed.



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM THE SYSTEM

When you register, you can look up, identify, and register for the offender through the portal or through our call center using the offender's name or case information.

- You may select the types of notifications and event (custody transfers, court events, etc.) you want to be informed of.
- Customize how and when you want to be notified, including setting notification hours and blackout dates.
- Be confident that you'll receive updates, even if the offender moves from jail to prison, or returns to custody at a later date.

One-time registration

Stay informed about changes in custody without needing to register multiple times.

Notifications that fit your life

You decide how you want to be contacted (text, call, or email) and when.

Manage your preferences anytime

Pause notifications, update your contact info, or view your history on your terms.

Support through advocates

Trusted professionals can help you register and manage your notifications.

Private and secure

Your information is protected. The person in custody will not know you're registered.

HOW IT WORKS

Getting started is simple, and support is always available if you need it.

1. Register

Online, by phone, or with help from a victim advocate.

2. Set your preferences

Choose how you want to receive updates, and when.

3. Stay informed

You'll be notified about key custody changes like release, transfer, or parole.

Register in the portal:

vss-counties.tdcj.texas.gov

Register or receive assistance by phone:

866-268-8959



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL of TEXAS