

Dependent Abuse- Your Legal Obligation

Anyone who thinks a child, or person 65 years or older, or an adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited must report it immediately to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at 1-800-252-5400.

Sexual Assault

You are not alone, there is support. **Sexual assault is never your fault.** Sexual assault can happen to anyone regardless of age, gender identity or expression, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, appearance, sexual orientation, and has a tremendous impact on everyone – the survivor, their families, and their community. **Sexual contact without your consent is a crime.**

Options for Next Steps

- You may choose to call 911 and have an officer respond to your location.
- You may choose to contact the **Sex Crimes Unit** for investigative services, crisis counseling, safety planning (including use of a pseudonym), and referrals.
- You may choose to have a sexual assault forensic exam with or without contacting the police.
 - If you choose to have the exam with police involvement, call 911.
 - If you choose to have the sexual assault exam without police involvement, contact **SAFE Alliance or Brave Alliance.**
- If you would like to learn about obtaining a protective order, call the **County Attorney's Office.**

Crime Victims' Compensation

This program helps victims of violent crime cover out of pocket expenses that are incurred as the result of the crime. Some requirements and limitations may apply.

For more information

Office of the Attorney General Crime Victims' Compensation Program (512) 936-1200
1-800-983-9933

To apply online visit: www.texasattorneygeneral.gov

Crime Victims' Rights

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

A victim of crime is defined by Chapter 56 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as (1) someone who is the victim of sexual assault, kidnapping, or aggravated robbery or who has suffered bodily injury or death because of the criminal conduct of another, (2) the close relative (spouse, parent, adult brother or sister, or child) of a deceased victim, or (3) the guardian of a victim. The law also applies to victims of juvenile crime, including victims who suffer property loss.

The State of Texas intends that victims of crime receive the following safeguards, assurances and considerations:

- receive adequate protection from harm and threats of harm arising from cooperation with prosecution efforts;
- have their safety considered by the magistrate when setting bail;
- receive information, on request, of relevant court proceedings, including appellate proceedings, of cancellations and rescheduling prior to the event, and appellate court decisions after the decisions are entered but before they are made public;
- be informed, when requested, by a peace officer about the defendant's right to bail and criminal investigation procedures, and from the prosecutor's office about general procedures in the criminal justice system, including plea agreements, restitution, appeals and parole;
- provide pertinent information concerning the impact of the crime to the probation department prior to sentencing;
- information about the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund and payment for a medical examination for a victim of sexual assault, and, on request, referral to social service agencies that provide additional assistance;
- information, on request, about parole procedures; notification of parole proceedings and of the inmate's release; and the opportunity to participate in the parole process by submitting written information to the Board of Pardons and Paroles for inclusion in the defendant's file for consideration by the Board prior to parole;
- a separate or secure waiting area at all public court proceedings;
- prompt return of any property that is no longer needed as evidence;

- have the prosecutor notify, upon request, an employer that the need for the victim's testimony may involve the victim's absence from work;
- on request, counseling and testing regarding AIDS and HIV infection and testing for victims of sexual assault;
- request victim-offender mediation coordinated by the Victim Services Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- be informed of the use and purpose of a victim impact statement, to complete a victim impact statement and to have the statement considered before sentencing and acceptance of a plea bargain and before an inmate is released on parole.

A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim may be present at all public court proceedings, with the consent of the presiding judge.

A judge, attorney for the state, peace officer, or law enforcement agency is not liable for a failure or inability to provide a service enumerated herein.

Victims should also know that they can have a victim advocate accompany them during the sexual assault exam if an advocate is available at the time of the examination.

Please call your crime victim services contacts in law enforcement and the prosecutor's office for more information about victim services in your community.

NOTES

Feedback on services provided by Victim Services? Please contact us at (512) 974-5037 or Victim.Services@austintexas.gov

To contact the Office of Police Oversight, please call (512) 974-9090 English/Spanish www.austintexas.gov/POLICE

4/27/23

VICTIM ASSISTANCE INFORMATION



Police Report Number:

Aggravated Assault (Non-Family)
(512) 974-5245

Austin Police Department
(512) 974-5000

Domestic Violence
(512) 974-8535

Child Abuse
(512) 974-6880

Homicide
(512) 974-5210

Sex Crimes
(512) 974-5230

Robbery
(512) 974-5270

Vehicular Homicide
(512) 974-5789

Victim Services
(512) 974-5037

Victim.Services@austintexas.gov

APD Victim Services

The Victim Services Division of the Austin Police Department supports victims and survivors of crime and traumatic events through a streamlined system of trauma-informed, culturally relevant, care and advocacy. Victim Services is available to assist victims and survivors, their families, and their neighborhoods 24 hours a day/7 days a week. It is your right as a victim to request these services.

Austin Police Department

Emergency Assistance	9-1-1
Non-Emergency Assistance	3-1-1
Crisis Intervention Unit	(512) 854-3450
Records Request	(512) 974-5212
Warrant Office	(512) 974-5299

Helpful Resources

24-Hour Crisis Hotlines

Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-7233
TTY	1-800-787-3224
Text LOVEIS to	22522
Psychiatric Emergency Services	(512) 472-4357
TTY	(512) 703-1395
Runaway Safeline	1-800-786-2929
SAFE	(512) 267-7233
Deaf/HH, use Relay/VRS	
Text	(737) 888-7233
Sexual Assault Hotline	1-800-656-4673
Chat	online.rainn.org
Suicide Prevention Lifeline	1-800-273-8255
Deaf/HH	1-800-799-4889
Teen Dating Abuse Helpline	1-866-331-9474
TTY	1-866-331-8453
Text LOVEIS to	1-866-331-9474
Texas Youth Helpline	1-800-989-6884
Chat	(512) 872-5777

Counseling/Support Services

Asian Family Support Services	1-877-281-8371
Austin Center for Grief & Loss	(512) 472-7878
Capital Area Counseling	(512) 302-1000
Casa Marianella	(512) 385-5571
Christi Center	(512) 467-2600
Family Elder Care	(512) 450-0844
Hospice Austin	(512) 342-4700
Information & Referral	2-1-1
LifeWorks	(512) 735-2400

National Alliance on Mental Illness	(512) 420-9810
Text NAMI to	741741
Refugee Services of Texas	(512) 472-9472
Waterloo Counseling Center	(512) 444-9922
YWCA	(512) 326-1222

Emergency Assistance/Shelters

ARCH	(512) 305-4100
Caritas	(512) 479-4610
Travis Co. HHS	(512) 854-4120
Hope Alliance	1-800-460-7233
American Red Cross	(512) 928-4271
SAFE	(512) 267-7233
Deaf/HH, use Relay/VRS	
Salvation Army	(512) 476-1111
Family Crisis Center	(512) 303-7755
Hays-Caldwell Women's Center	(512) 396-4357

Criminal Legal Services

Adult Parole	(512) 406-5200
Adult Probation	(512) 854-4600
Juvenile Probation	(512) 854-7000
Municipal Court	(512) 974-4800
Pretrial Services	(512) 854-9381
Protective Orders	(512) 854-4163
Travis Co, County Attorney	(512) 854-9415
Travis Co. District Attorney	(512) 854-9400
Williamson Co. Attorney	(512) 943-1111
Williamson Co. District Attorney	(512) 943-1234

Jail Information

VINE (Victim Information Notification Everyday)
www.vinelink.com 1-877-894-8463

Gardner Betts Juvenile Center	(512) 854-7090
Travis Co. Jail	(512) 854-9889
www.tcsheriff.org	
Williamson Co. Jail	(512) 943-1365

wilco.org/Elected-Officials/Sheriffs-Office/Corrections

Civil Legal Services

Adult/Child Protective Services	(512) 834-3195
American Gateways	(512) 478-0546
Austin Tenants Council	(512) 474-1961
Domestic Relations	(512) 854-9696
Texas Advocacy Project	(512) 476-5770
Texas Legal Services	(512) 477-6000
Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid	(512) 374-2700

Other Resources

Anti-Defamation League Austin	(512) 249-7960
Findhelp	www.findhelp.org
Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central TX (AMBIS)	(512) 480-0555
Medical Examiner	(512) 854-9960

Notice to Adult Victims of Domestic Violence

It is a crime for any person to cause you any physical injury or harm, even if that person is a member or former member of your family or household. It is important to tell the officer if you, your child, or any other household resident have been injured.

If you feel you are going to be in danger after the officer leaves, you have the right to:

- Ask the local prosecutor to file a criminal complaint against the person committing family violence; and apply to the court for an order to protect you (you should consult a legal aid office, a prosecuting attorney, or a private attorney).
- If a family or household member assaults you and is arrested, you may request that a magistrate's order for emergency protection be issued. Please inform the officer if you want an order for emergency protection. You need not be present when the order is issued. You cannot be charged a fee by a court in connection with filing, serving, or entering a protective order. For example, the court can enter an order that:
 - (1) the abuser not commit further acts of violence;
 - (2) the abuser not threaten, harass, or contact you at home;
 - (3) directs the abuser to leave your household; and
 - (4) establishes temporary custody of the children and directs the abuser not to interfere with the children or any property.

A VIOLATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF COURT-ORDERED PROTECTION MAY BE A FELONY.

Options for Next Steps

- After an arrest is made, you can contact VINE to register to receive information about offender custody status and related court events.
- If you'd like to learn about obtaining a protective order, you can contact or visit the appropriate **County Attorney's Office** (based on where you live, offender lives, or incident occurred).
- You may choose to call **Pretrial Services** to talk to someone about your concerns of having someone released on a personal bond (PR Bond).
- You can contact the **APD Domestic Violence Unit** for investigative services, crisis counseling, safety planning (including use of a pseudonym), and legal referrals.
- You may choose to call **SAFE or Hope Alliance** for shelter, counseling, safety planning, and children's services.

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another partner. Common signs of abusive behavior in a partner include:

- Acting jealous and possessive.
- Limiting your access to money, necessities, and personal documents.
- Making you feel isolated from friends and family.
- Telling you that you can never do anything right.
- Threatening to harm or take away your children or pets.
- Undermining your parenting.
- Destroying your belongings or your home.
- Insulting, demeaning, or shaming you.
- Intimidating you with weapons.
- Pressuring you to have sex or perform sexual acts you aren't comfortable with.
- Intimidating you through threatening looks or actions.
- Pressuring you to use drugs or alcohol.
- Utilizing technology to monitor/control your activities.