

RIGHTS OF CRIME VICTIMS

As defined in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 56, Subchapter A, Crime Victims' Rights, a victim of a violent crime is someone who: (1) has suffered bodily injury or death as a result of criminally injurious conduct, or who has been the victim of a crime involving sexual assault, kidnapping, or aggravated robbery; (2) is the close relative (spouse, parent, brother, sister, or adult child) or (3) is the guardian of a victim. As a victim of violent crime, you have the following rights:

- The right to receive adequate protection from harm and threats of harm arising from cooperation with prosecution efforts.
- The right to have the magistrate take your safety and that of your family into consideration when bail is being considered.
- The right, if you so request, to be informed of relevant court proceedings and of those court proceedings that have been canceled or rescheduled and to be informed of appellate proceedings.
- The right, if you so request, to information on procedures in the criminal investigation of your case by law enforcement officials and about general procedures in the criminal justice system including plea bargaining, restitution, appeals, and parole from the prosecutor's office.
- The right to receive information about the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation fund that provides financial assistance to victims of violent crimes and, if you so request, referral to available social service agencies that may provide additional help.
- The right to provide information to a probation department conducting a pre-sentence investigation on the impact of the crime.
- The right to have a medical health provider pay for medical examinations and medical expenses for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence and on request, the right to counseling regarding AIDS and HIV infection and testing for sexual assault victims.
- If you so request, the right to be notified of parole proceedings by the Victim Services Section of the Pardons and Paroles Division. The right to participate in the parole process by submitting extra information or a Victim Impact Statement detailing the emotional, physical, and financial impact the crime has had on you and your family for consideration by the judge prior to sentencing and/or entry of a plea bargain and by the parole board prior to taking any parole action. The right to be notified of the inmate's release.
- The right to be present at all public court proceedings if the presiding judge permits.
- The right to a safe waiting area before and during court proceedings.

- The right to prompt return of any property that is no longer required as evidence.
- If you so request, the right to have the prosecutor notify your employer that the need for your testimony may involve your absence from work.
- The right of a tenant who is a victim of family violence to vacate a dwelling and terminate a residential lease.

NOTICE TO ADULT VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

IT IS A CRIME FOR ANY PERSON TO INTENTIONALLY CAUSE YOU ANY HARM, EVEN IF THAT PERSON IS A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU TELL THE OFFICER IF YOU OR ANY OTHER HOUSEHOLD RESIDENT HAVE BEEN INJURED, OR IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE GOING TO BE IN DANGER AFTER THE OFFICER LEAVES.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NEXT?

- Request an **Emergency Protective Order (EPO)**: This order can be requested through the District Attorney's Family Criminal Law Division at 713-274-0212. If an arrest is not made, call the investigator assigned to the case. This order is valid for up to 90 days.
- Register through **VINE** by calling 1-877-894-8463 or www.vinelink.com. Registration is free, anonymous, and is a computer-based telephone program that provides victims of crime information about offender custody status and related court events. (See VINE section of brochure for more details).
- Apply for a **Protective Order** if necessary. A Protective Order must be issued directly to the offender. It orders him/her to stop committing violence against you, to stay away from you and your family, to stop any communication, direct or through others, that is threatening or harassing. This order can be valid for up to 2 years. (See *Legal Resources* section.)
- Call the **Houston Police Department Family Violence Unit** at 713-308-1100 for Investigative Services.
- Call the **Houston Police Department Victim Services Division** at 713-308-0080 for legal referrals, crisis counseling, U Visa information and questions regarding Crime Victim's Compensation.
- Make a Safety Plan.

VICTIM INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION EVERYDAY (VINE)

Call VINE 24 hours a day for information on county jail status and court events. Make Texas VINE part of your safety plan. The suspect/offender will **not** know you have registered with Texas VINE. However, do not depend on Texas VINE, or any single program, for your protection. Please Call Toll Free 1-877-894-8463.

For more information visit www.vinelink.com

WHAT IS A PROTECTIVE ORDER?

A Protective Order is a legal remedy for the use and protection of victims of family violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Family Violence means the intentional use or threat of physical force by a member of the family or household. Family includes individuals related by blood or marriage, i.e., spouses, ex-spouses, aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers, sisters, parents, children, etc. Household means a unit composed of persons living together in the same dwelling, whether they are related to each other or not.

A protective order can deter violence and provide the police and courts additional authority to intervene in family violence, sexual assault, indecent assault, and stalking cases, and to punish those who commit family violence, but it is not a shield that truly stops the next violent act from occurring.

SAFETY PLAN

- **PREPARE FOR FUTURE INCIDENTS:** Plan an escape route out of your home & teach it to your children
- Have a code word for children & family/friends to call police
- Tell children not to get in the middle of violence
- Talk with professionals about technology safety (computers, cell phones, etc.)
- Always keep a phone with you and know your location
- Find a safe place to stay (family/friend's house)

NOTICE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS



https://www.houstontx.gov/police/victim_services/Notice_to_Victims_of_Sexual_Assault.pdf

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Hotlines (24 Hours)

<i>Emergency</i>	911
Adult & Child Protective Services	800-252-5400
Bay Area Turning Point (South)	281-286-2525
Brazoria Shelter – Women, C & SC	800-243-5788
Brazoria Shelter – Women, North	281-585-0902
Crisis Hotline	832-416-1177
Crisis Hotline (Teens)	832-416-1199
FamilyTime/The Door	281-446-2615
Houston Area Women's Center	713-528-2121
HAWC Rape Crisis Line	713-528-7273
Human Trafficking Resource Ctr	888-373-7888
Katy Christian Ministries	281-693-7273
Montgomery Co. Women's Center	936-441-4044
Mothers Against Drunk Driving	877-623-3435
National Domestic Violence	800-799-7233
TTY	800-787-3224
Star of Hope Mission (Family)	713-222-2220
Star of Hope Mission (Men)	713-227-8900
The Bridge Over Troubled Waters	713-473-2801
TX Forensic Nurse Examiners Ctr	281-306-6893

General

<i>Non-Emergency</i>	713-884-3131
Children's Assessment Center	713-986-3300
Casa Juan Diego (Immigrants)	713-869-7376
Covenant House (Age 18-24)	713-523-2231
Catholic Charities	713-526-4611
DAYA	713-981-7645
Family Services of Houston	713-861-4849
Harris Ctr for Mental Health & IDD	713-970-7000
HPD Victim Services Division	713-308-0080
Mental Health Association (Vets)	713-523-8963
Montrose Center (LGBT) (Main)	713-529-0037
NW Assistance Ministries	281-885-4555
TDCJ-Parole Division	713-685-7100

Legal Resources

Attorney General Child Support	800-252-8014
Victim Compensation	800-983-9933
Harris County Domestic Violence	713-274-0212
HC Victim Asst. Coordinators	713-274-0250
Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse	713-224-9911
Houston Volunteer Lawyers	713-228-0735
Lone Star Legal Aid	713-652-0077
Immigrant Resource Hotline	1-833-468-4664

NO ONE DESERVES TO BE HURTI

CRIME VICTIMS' COMPENSATION

Crime Victims' Compensation is a division of the **Attorney General's Office**. The program reimburses innocent victims of violent crime for some out-of-pocket expenses they suffer as a result of the crime.

Crime Victims' Compensation is available to pay the amount of expense reasonably and necessarily incurred for:

- Medical, counseling, prescription, and rehabilitative services.
- Partial loss of earnings because of a disability resulting from personal injury.
- Childcare for minor children to enable a victim or spouse of a deceased victim to continue employment.
- Funeral and burial expenses.
- Reasonable costs associated with crime scene cleanup.
- Reasonable replacement costs for clothing, bedding or other property taken as evidence or rendered unusable as a result of the criminal investigation.
- Loss of wages and travel reimbursement due to participation in or attendance at the investigation, prosecutorial and judicial process.
- Relocation expenses for certain victims of family violence and sexual assault.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE OR LOSS IS NOT AN ELIGIBLE EXPENSE.

To submit a claim, a victim or family member must send a Crime Victim's Compensation application to the Texas Attorney General's office. Victims or family members needing an application can access the application via the internet at:

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

Mail application to:

Office of the Attorney General
 Crime Victims' Compensation Division
 P.O. Box 12548, Austin, TX 78711-2548
 Claims Division: 1-800-983-9933

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

The **Victim Services Division** is dedicated to positively affecting the quality of life for the citizens of Houston and exists to provide assistance to crime victims and their families. We will assist the victim with applying for Crime Victims' Compensation and their chosen service providers to help them obtain benefits and services. The Victim Services Division works closely with various social services and legal agencies within the City of Houston and Harris County and is familiar with a wide variety of resources available.

CRIME VICTIM NOTICE

U VISA INFORMATION

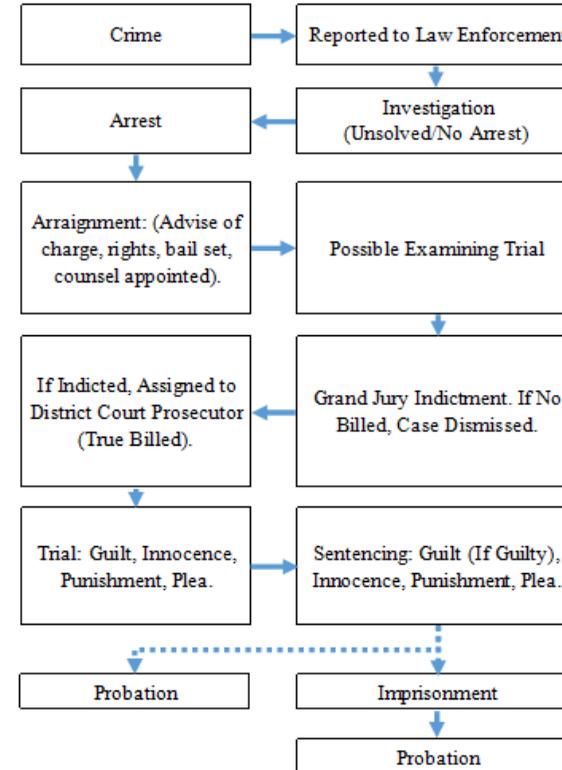
You may be eligible for legal status & a work permit with a U Visa

***YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS IS OF NO CONCERN TO POLICE
 WE ARE HERE TO HELP***

- Contact HPD Victim Services **as soon as possible**
- You **must cooperate with police** and update your personal contact information
- Crimes that qualify for a U Visa include:
 - Family Violence, Sexual Assault, Murder, Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Kidnapping, Prostitution, Human Trafficking and other serious violent crimes.
- HPD Victim Services is here to help with:
 - The Criminal Justice System
 - U Visa Law Enforcement Certification
 - Crime Victims' Compensation
 - Property return
 - Protective Order Information
 - Referrals to Shelters, Social Services and Legal Resources

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS

This Process can take from six months to a year or more. You may call the law enforcement agency's telephone number for the status of the case and information about victim's rights.



PLEASE CALL **713-308-0080** OR EMAIL US AT
VICTIM.SERVICES@HOUSTONPOLICE.ORG
 TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY
 VICTIM SERVICES STAFF.

(08/2023) VSD-0003

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

1200 TRAVIS, HOUSTON, 77002
www.houstonx.gov/police



VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION 713-308-0080

FAMILY VIOLENCE UNIT	713-308-1100
MAJOR ASSAULTS UNIT	713-308-8800
HOMICIDE DIVISION	713 308-3600
ROBBERY DIVISION	713-308-0700
ADULT SEX CRIMES	713-308-1180
VEHICULAR CRIMES DIVISION	713-247-4072
CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN UNIT	713-830-3256
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT	713-247-5900

Incident#: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____