

Texas Department of Public Safety

Help for Victims of Family Violence Offenses, Stalking, and Violation of Protective Order or Condition of Bond.



ADDITIONAL RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF CERTAIN FAMILY VIOLENCE OFFENSES, STALKING, AND VIOLATION OF PROTECTIVE ORDER OR CONDITION OF BOND

This is an abridged version and full text is available at <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/>

Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 56A.0521

(a) & (b) This article applies only to victims, guardians of a victim, or close relatives of a deceased victim of an offense involving family violence, stalking, child abuse or neglect, sexual assault or abuse, indecent assault, trafficking, violation of protective orders, or related to violations of court orders or bonds concerning the above, including repeated violations of court orders or bond conditions. These individuals are entitled to the following rights within the criminal justice system.

(1) If requested, you have the right to know about any evidence collected during the investigation of the offenses and the status of any analysis being done on the evidence mentioned above. However, if sharing this information would hinder the investigation or prosecution, you will be informed about when you can expect to receive that information.

(2) If requested, you have the right to be notified when a crime laboratory receives a request to process and

analyze any evidence collected during the investigation of the offense.

(3) If requested, you have the right to be informed about and to talk with the attorney representing the state about the outcome of the case. This includes sharing the views of the victim, their guardian, or their relatives regarding decisions such as not filing charges, dismissing charges, using a pretrial intervention program, or making a plea bargain agreement.

(4) You have the right to be informed that the attorney representing the state does not represent you, the victim, your guardian, or a close relative of a deceased victim.

(5) If you are a victim, a guardian of a victim, or a close relative of someone who has died because of crimes stated above, and you want to be notified or receive information, you need to give your current address and phone number to the attorney representing the state and the law enforcement agency handling the case. You must inform them about any changes to your contact information. If you want to receive notifications by email, you can provide your email address and you must notify the attorney and law enforcement agency of any changes. 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; this person may not be the person charged with the offense.

Notice to Victims of Family Violence Offenses, Stalking, and Violation of Protective Order or Condition of Bond

Your Rights as a Survivor of Family Violence Offenses, Stalking, and Violation of Protective Order or Condition of Bond

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.

Scan the QR code to learn more about your rights and resources. This link will take you to the Texas Health and Human Services website.



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

You Have Rights and Options

If you, your child, or any other household member has been injured, or if 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.

Regardless of your background, when you are in need, come and find support in a safe place. Everyone is accepted and supported with the services offered by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

DPS Victim Services

512-424-2211

