

RESOURCES

Brochures and Publications

- *Your Rights, Your Voice, Your Participation**: provides information on VSD programs and services
- *Texas Crime Victims' Rights**: provides a list of crime victims' rights in Texas
- *It's Your Voice**: provides information on the Victim Impact Statement and how this document is used in the criminal justice system
- *Do You Know Your Additional Rights?**: provides a summary of additional crime victims' rights
- *Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue (VOMD)*: provides information about the VOMD program and its services
- *Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse**: provides information about the TxCVC and its services
- *Crime Victim Assistance Standards*: provides information to aid law enforcement officers and attorneys representing the State of Texas in performing duties imposed by the Code of Criminal Procedure Title 1, Chapter 56, Rights of Crime Victims (online only)
- *Victim Impact Statement Recommended Processing Procedures*: Recommendations to ensure that completed Victim Impact Statements are submitted to the TDCJ.
- *Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online*: provides information regarding the comprehensive foundational training, including how to register
- *Victims' Rights and Services for TDCJ Staff*: provides information on crime victims' rights and services available to TDCJ staff members who have been victimized while on duty

* available in Spanish

Publications available free of charge. To order materials and subscribe to other publications, please visit www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs

Quarterly Newsletter

The *Victim's Informer* newsletter provides information on new and innovative services, as well as updates and news from victim service professionals.

Victim Assistance Bulletin

Distributed to local Victim Assistance Coordinators, the bulletin provides information specific to their role in providing services and completing the Victim Impact Statement.

Victim Resource Directory

An online listing of national, state and local resources for crime victims, victim service professionals and criminal justice professionals.

Victim Services Website

A continually growing resource for practitioners and victims, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division (VSD) section of the website provides diverse resources including information about crime victims' rights, services offered and more.

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION



Victim Services Division

8712 Shoal Creek Blvd.
Suite 265
Austin, Texas 78757-6899
800-848-4284
Fax: 512-452-0825

E-mail:
tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov
Visit the TDCJ website at:
www.tdcj.texas.gov

The Victim Services Division wishes to express appreciation to all the victim service organizations for their continuing support and cooperation.

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Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Victim Services
Division

TEXAS
CRIME VICTIM
CLEARINGHOUSE



About Us

The Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) serves as a central source of information and offers training about services and needs involving crime victims in Texas.

The TxCVC was created in 1983 and operated through the Office of the Governor. In 1996, the TxCVC was transferred to the Victim Services Division (VSD) of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The TxCVC is mandated to: revise the Victim Impact Statement after every legislative session; collect Victim Impact Statement statistics from each district and county attorney's office; develop Victim Impact Statement recommended processing procedures for local jurisdictions; and develop crime victim assistance standards for law enforcement and prosecutors. In addition, the TxCVC provides training for criminal justice and victim service professionals and direct services to crime victims.

The goal of the TxCVC is to provide focus, leadership and coordination necessary to continue and improve services so that victims are afforded a full measure of justice and all possible assistance.

Who We Serve

- victims/survivors of crime
- criminal justice system professionals
- community based agencies
- the general public

Victim Impact Statements

The Victim Impact Statement is vital to preserving a victim's right to be informed and to participate in the system throughout the criminal justice process. The TxCVC strives to ensure victims understand the importance of the Victim Impact Statement and their options for completing one.

The TxCVC is responsible for updating the Victim Impact Statement after each legislative session and maintaining statistics on the numbers and types of persons to whom Victim Impact Statements are provided each year. The TxCVC also tracks the response rate of Victim Impact Statements by county and assists with the development of processes to improve the number of Statements forwarded throughout the criminal justice process.

Technical Assistance

The TxCVC offers specialized technical assistance to meet your organization's needs. All technical assistance is designed to enhance the criminal justice system's response to victims and improve the quality of services provided to crime victims. Examples include providing information on crime victims' rights, the post conviction process, and mandates applicable to the Victim Impact Statement and bringing criminal justice professionals and community organizations together to better meet the needs of victims.

SERVICES

Training

The TxCVC provides victim-centered, research-informed and practice-based training. The TxCVC staff is available to participate in training events sponsored by local, state and national practitioners.

Training content and topics can be developed and integrated to meet your specific training needs and can vary in length. The TxCVC often partners with other statewide and local agencies and professionals to provide training. The TxCVC is committed to providing training to meet the individualized needs of communities working to enhance services provided to victims.

The Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online provides training free of charge. The TVAT Online provides four hours of foundational level victim assistance training as well as a calendar of additional trainings. More information is available online at www.tdcj.state.tx.us/php/tvatonline/.

For more information regarding the Victim Services Division, please call (800) 848-4284 or email the TxCVC at tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov or visit us online at: www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs

Regional Victim Services Coordinators

The TxCVC has strategically-placed regional victim services coordinators that provide direct services to crime victims and training to criminal justice professionals. Regional victim services coordinators assist with developing and maintaining relationships with local victim assistance coordinators in district and county attorney offices, law enforcement agencies, victims' advocates and regional coalition or task force groups.

Direct services provided to victims include, but are not limited to:

- Assistance during parole review process
- Parole Board meeting accompaniment
- Assistance exercising crime victim's rights post-conviction

Execution Process Assistance

The VSD works with the victims' families during the execution process. As many as five relatives and close friends of the victim, plus a spiritual advisor, may witness the offender's execution. Victims may bring three support persons who will not view the execution. The VSD staff will prepare and accompany both victim witnesses and their support persons during the entire execution process. The VSD staff also provides follow-up support and referrals as needed.