

Williamson County Sheriff's Office



Victim Services Information

Williamson County Sheriff's Office

508 South Rock Street
Georgetown, Texas 78626
512-943-1300

Agency _____

Officer _____

Case Number _____

Date of Report _____

Phone Number _____

For online version of this booklet, please go to
vsr.wilco.org/familyviolence

Resources & Information

Place the camera of your smart phone on the QR code below
for resources and information or type in the website found be-
low QR code.



vsr.wilco.org

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Williamson County Sheriff's Office

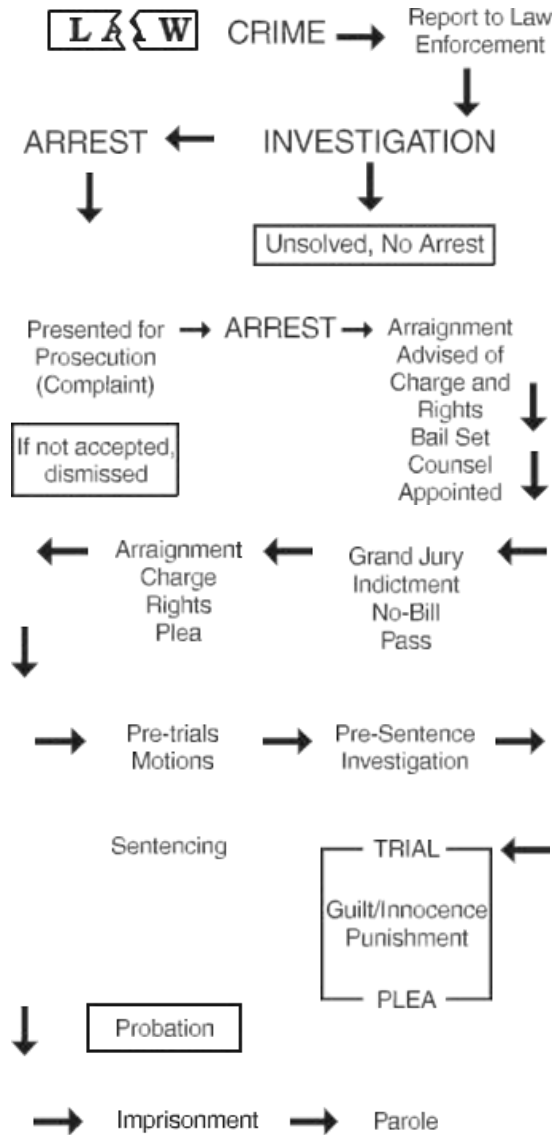
Place the camera of your smart phone on the QR code below for the
WCSO webpage



Investigation and Prosecution

Or

“What happens next”



INFORMATION

AREA POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Bartlett Police Department	
202 North Dalton St	254-527-3733
Cedar Park Police Department	
911 Quest Parkway.....	512-260-4600
Florence Police Department	
100 S. Patterson Ave.....	254-793-3110
Georgetown Police Department	
3500 D. B. Wood Rd.....	512-930-3510
Granger Police Department	
119 E. Davilla St	512-859-2644
Hutto Police Department	
401 West Front.....	512-846-2057
Leander Police Department	
705 Leander Dr.	512-528-2800
Liberty Hill Police Department	
1120 Loop 332	512-515-5409
Round Rock Police Department	
2701 N. Mays St	512-218-5500
Southwestern University	
Maple St.....	512-863-1944
Taylor Police Department	
500 South Main.....	512-352-5551
Thrall Police Department	
102 South Main.....	512-898-5407
Jarrell Police Department	
191 Town Center Blvd.....	512-746-5333

Williamson County Sheriff's Office

Headquarters	
508 South Rock	
Georgetown.....	512-943-1300
Magistrate.....	512-943-1377
Jail Booking Desk.....	512-943-1365
County Attorney's Office.....	512-943-1111
District Attorney's Office.....	512-943-1234
Williamson County Criminal Justice Annex	
405 Martin Luther King Blvd.	
Georgetown, Texas 78626.....	512-943-1100

You may call the law enforcement agency's telephone number or the prosecutor's office during business hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday) for the status of your case, information about victim's rights and an explanation of these rights.

REFERRALS

Emergency.....	911
Hope Alliance Information.....	512-255-1212/800-460-SAFE (7233) (Direct Services to Adult & Child Victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault)
Protective Orders.....	512-943-1111
Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid.....	512-374-2700 (toll free 800-369-9270)
Women’s Advocacy Project.....	512-476-5377
Family Violence Legal Line.....	512-476-5770 (toll free 888-988-9996)
Family Law Hotline.....	512-476-1866 (toll free 800-777-FAIR (3247))
Lawyer Referral of Central Texas.....	512-472-8303 (toll free 800-252-9690)
American Gateways.....	512-478-0546
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services	
Child/Elder Abuse Hotline.....	800-252-5400
24/7 Crisis Hotline.....	800-841-1255
MADD.....	877-MADD-HELP
<u>Bluebonnet Trails Community Services</u>	
Round Rock.....	512-244-8489
Taylor.....	512-365-1059
After hours crisis.....	800-841-1255
<u>Williamson County and Cities Health Districts:</u>	
Georgetown.....	512-943-3640
Taylor.....	512-238-2121
Round Rock.....	512-248-3257
Cedar Park.....	512-260-4240

REFERRALS (continued)

Hospitals:

Georgetown.....512-943-3000
Round Rock.....512-341-1000
Baylor Scott & White – Taylor.....737-888-3100
Baylor Scott & White – Temple.....254-724-2111
Baylor Scott & White – Round Rock.....512-509-0100

Texas Department of Human Services:

Georgetown.....512-942-4030
Round Rock.....512-244-1592
Taylor.....512-352-7653
Cedar Park.....512-260-4240

Justice of the Peace:

Precinct 1.....512-244-8622
Precinct 2.....512-260-4210
Precinct 3.....512-943-1501
Precinct 4.....512-352-4155

Constables:

Precinct 1.....512-244-8650
Precinct 2.....512-260-4270
Precinct 3.....512-943-1434
Precinct 4.....512-238-2181

CARTS.....512-255-9188

Lifesteps (Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse).....512-246-9880

American Red Cross.....800-928-4271

Salvation Army.....512-246-7292

Mexican Consulate

5202 E. Ben White Blvd. Suite 150

Austin, TX 78741

Main Line..... 512-478-2866

Emergency.....512-922-7906

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS

According to the Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter 56, Rights of Crime Victims, a victim of a violent crime is (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. These rights also apply to victims of juvenile crime, including victims who suffer property loss.

Victims of Crime have the right to:

- 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 by 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 Victim's 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 right 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;

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM RIGHT (Cont.)

- 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, the right to 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.

OTHER RIGHTS

- ◆ A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim is entitled to 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 right enumerated herein.
- ◆ Art. 56.045 CCP States that a victim of a sexual assault has the right to the accompaniment of a victim advocate during the sexual assault exam if an advocate is available at the time of the examination.
- ◆ Please call the Williamson County Sheriff's Office, County Attorney's Office or District Attorney's Office for more information about victim rights in your community.
- ◆ If you or your family have been contacted or threatened by the defendant or the defendant's family since the crime occurred, please contact your local law enforcement agency and prosecutor immediately.

NOTICE TO ADULT VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

Please tell the investigating peace officer:

IF you, your child, or any other household resident has been injured; or

IF you feel you are going to be in danger when the officer leaves or later.

You have the right to ASK the local prosecutor to file a criminal complaint against the person committing family violence and APPLY to a 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 investigating 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 (such as (1) and (2) above) MAY
BE A FELONY.**

WHAT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE?

Family violence is an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household (to include spouse, former spouse, or intimate partner) 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. Family violence does not include defensive measures to protect oneself.

Emergency Magistrate's Protective Orders

- The abuser **MUST BE IN JAIL** at the time of the request for protection.
- The victim, a police officer, a magistrate, or the County Attorney's Office can request an Emergency Protective Order.
- An Emergency Protective Order is enforceable by Police immediately after the magistrate signs the order and gives the abuser a copy.
- It contains some of the same provisions as the two year Protective Order.
- An emergency Protective Order can be in effect for up to 91 days.
- You may call the Magistrate's office to inquire if an Emergency Magistrate's Protective Order has been issued. By calling 512-943-1377.

**CALL THE FOLLOWING VIOLENCE SHELTER OR OTHER
SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS IF YOU NEED EMERGENCY
HOUSING**

Hope Alliance Shelter (Round Rock)

800-460-7233

512-255-1212

Or Call

Safe Place (Austin)

512-267-7233

Child Crimes

If a child shows suspicious injuries or if someone reports child abuse, law enforcement or child protective services must assess the situation immediately.

Child abuse laws vary by state, with each state defining and addressing child abuse and neglect in different ways. State laws also specify who is a mandated reporter and outline their responsibilities for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect.

Similarly, various civil and criminal charges may be imposed on the alleged perpetrator. Those accused of child abuse and neglect may face criminal charges.

Different Types of Child Abuse and Neglect

- Physical abuse is the infliction of violence or force that causes bodily injury to the child. Acts or omissions of the perpetrator can cause harm to the child.
- Child sexual abuse or sexual exploitation involves any sexual contact with a person under the age 17 (per State of Texas).
- Neglect happens when someone fails to provide for the child's basic needs. Basic needs include, among others, child care, medical care, and health care, as well as emotional support and nurturing. Neglect is commonly committed by people with custody of the child, such as a child's parent or caregiver.

Child Abuse Investigation

A child protective services or law enforcement officer (or both) may conduct the investigation. A child abuse investigation includes interviewing the parents or caregiver and the child. The investigator may also interview other people familiar with the situation.

An investigation begins once a report of possible child maltreatment, neglect, sexual exploitation, or sexual abuse is received. The inquiry will determine whether someone has harmed the child or if the child is at risk of injury.

Then, officers will determine the best way to reduce the risk of harm and increase the child's safety. Law enforcement officers will also determine if criminal charges are appropriate.

Child Crimes (Cont.)

Report Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

- By Phone: 800-252-5400
- Online: www.txabusehotline.org

Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center

In Williamson County, when police need to interview a child regarding suspected or alleged physical or sexual abuse, or if the child has witnessed a traumatic event, law enforcement or child protective services will refer the case to the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center (WCCAC) for a forensic interview. Only law enforcement or child protective services have the authority to request forensic interviews.

What is a Forensic Interview?

A forensic interview differs from a police interview. The WCCAC is a neutral third-party organization facilitating the investigative process for children. Conducted by a trained forensic interviewer instead of a law enforcement officer, this interview involves the interviewer engaging with the child in an age-appropriate and developmentally suitable manner.

The building, specifically designed for children, resembles a dollhouse filled with vibrant colors. Upon entering, visitors are greeted by toys, offered snacks, and welcomed by an advocate. WCCAC provides various services, including forensic interviews, medical examinations, family advocacy, mental health counseling, and community education. To learn more about these services, please visit the website at **wilcocac.org**.

For additional information about resources for children, including mental health counseling, substance abuse assistance, and more, please refer to our online resource page at **vsr.wilco.org**.

PROTECTIVE ORDERS

What is a Protective Order?

It is a civil court order, whose purpose is to prevent further family violence, and, if violated, can have both civil and criminal consequences.

Who May Qualify For A Protective Order?

You may qualify for a Protective Order if you have recently (within the last 60 days) been a victim of:

- physical abuse (pushing, shoving, slapping, hitting, kicking, choking, or any act intended to physically harm another person) or,
- the threat of imminent danger (the person has to be physically present and able to follow through),
- One of the following relationships apply to you and the person being abusive (hereinafter known as Respondent)
 1. SPOUSE (husband or wife)
 2. EX-SPOUSE
 3. RELATIVE (related by blood)
 4. IN-LAW (related by marriage)
 5. BIOLOGICAL PARENTS OF THE SAME CHILD
 6. LIVE-IN ROOMMATES
 7. EX-LIVE-IN ROOMMATES
 8. DATING RELATIONSHIPS
- **AND** ... you are currently residing in Williamson County.

If there is an active Divorce pending in Williamson County, the application for protection will have to be filed in the Court where the Divorce is filed by the attorney representing you in the Divorce.

Where Do You Go?

The Family Violence Division of the:
County Attorney's Office
County Courthouse Annex
405 Martin Luther King Blvd., 2nd Floor
Georgetown, TX 78626
Call 512-943-1111

PROTECTIVE ORDERS (CONT)

What do you need to bring with you?

- A **current** state picture ID (Texas driver's license or Texas identification card) OR a person with a current ID to identify you.
- A current and complete address where we can serve the Respondent (it is best to serve at work or during daytime hours). A P.O. Box is not serviceable.
- The address you want to be protected (for example, work, home, school).
- A copy of the Divorce Decree or decree in suit affecting Parent-Child Relationship.

The Protective Order Process?

- If possible, please call for an appointment
- You will be required to fill out a detailed narrative consisting of the complete history of violence in your relationship.
- If you want the abusive person to vacate your home, the abuse must have occurred in the last 30 days and you must have resided at the residence during the last 30 days.
- Pictures of your injuries will be taken if they are still visible.
- Your papers will be filed and go to the judge for signing within 24 hours and a Temporary Ex-Parte Order will be issued (**it is not enforceable by police**). You will receive a date to come to court.
- Usually the Respondent will be served within 7-14 days, it will depend on the information you provide. These papers will inform the Respondent of the upcoming court date. It is up to him/her whether or not they appear the day of the hearing. The Respondent must be served in order to have a hearing.
- If he/she chooses not to appear at the hearing, you may be granted the Protective Order by default, provided you meet all the statutory requirements and the service has been on file with the District Clerk's office for at least ten days.
- On the day of your hearing, you and an Assistant County Attorney will appear before the judge and have a hearing. If the judge decides that family violence has occurred and is likely to occur in the future, a Protective Order will be granted.
- You will probably receive your Protective Order at this point. It is police enforceable. **The only way to enforce the Protective Order is to call 911!!**
- The entire process usually takes at least 14 days.
- The Protective Order is active for up to 2 years and is renewable if it has been violated or if the person becomes threatening or physically violent with you again. If the Respondent is incarcerated when the Protective Order expires; it will be extended for one year from the date the Respondent is released from jail.

PROTECTIVE ORDERS (CONT)

What the Protective Order will do!!

- **The protective order will tell** the abuser to stay 200 feet from where you live or work.
- **The abuser is instructed not to** Commit family violence; threaten through someone else; harass; or stalk the person applying for protection
- **The protective order can** order the abuser to go to specialized counseling for their abusive behavior.
- **The protective order is good for up to 2 years.**

What the Protective Order will not do!!

- A protective order is not a bulletproof vest or a safety shield. You must remain careful and take precautions for your safety.
- A protective order does no interfere with court ordered visitation or custody determined by another court.

Breaking your Lease due to Family Violence or Sexual Assault

Section 92.016 of the Texas Property Code allows domestic violence or sexual assault victims to terminate a lease without penalties by providing documentation, such as an emergency protective order, a protective order, or a police report.

For Additional information on Protective Orders, please call the County Attorney's Office and request to speak to victim services.

Contact info:
Phone: 512-943-1918

VINE

Victim Information Network Everyday

What is VINE?

VINE is the nation's leading victim notification network. It allows survivors, victims of crime, and other concerned citizens to access timely and reliable information about offenders or criminal cases in U.S. jails and prisons.

Register to receive automated notifications via email, text, or phone call, or check custody status information online at any time.

Available in 48 states and covering 2,900 incarceration facilities, VINE is a lifesaving service that offers peace of mind to millions of people every day.

Why Register?

Proactively plan for your safety through notifications of custody status and criminal case information delivered to you in real time.

- Choose from Text, email, phone, or in-app notification
- Real time alerts 24/7/365
- Free and easy to use
- Multiple languages available
- Reliable, nationwide services

Call 24 hours a day for information on suspect/offender jail status and court events.

Register to be automatically notified of changes in suspect/offender jail status and court events.

Booking Number _____

Suspect/Offender Name _____

Your four-digit PIN _____

TEXAS VINE
Toll Free 877-TX4-VINE
877-894-8463



Vinelink.com

What is Crime Victims Compensation (CVC)

The Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund is a financial assistance program that helps eligible victims of crime with certain expenses related to the crime. Money in the fund comes from court costs paid by criminals.

The Crime Victims' Compensation Program is administered by the Office of the Attorney General and is dedicated to ensuring that crime victims receive every possible assistance.

The Crime Victims' Compensation Fund is "the payer of last resort." Primary sources of payment may include health insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, auto insurance or Texas Workers' Compensation.

If the court orders the offender to pay restitution to the victim for an expense that Crime Victims' Compensation has already paid, the victim may be required to reimburse the Fund. If the victim or claimant recovers money through the settlement of a civil suit against the offender or a third party; he or she may also have to reimburse the Fund.

TO BE ELIGIBLE A PERSON MUST:

- Be a United States resident with the crime occurring in Texas or a Texas resident who becomes a victim in a state or country without a compensation program; United States citizenship is not required
- Report the crime to a law enforcement agency within a reasonable period of time, but not so late as to interfere with or hamper the investigation and prosecution of the crime
- File the application within three years of the date of the crime

WHO MAY QUALIFY?

- An innocent victim of crime who suffers a substantial threat of physical and/or emotional harm or death
- A dependent of a victim
- An authorized individual acting on behalf of a victim
- An intervener who goes to the aid of a victim or peace officer
- A person who legally assumes the obligations or voluntarily pays certain expenses related to the crime on behalf of the victim
- Immediate family or household members related by blood or marriage who require counseling as a result of the crime
- A peace officer, fire fighter or individual who has a duty to protect the public and who is injured in a crime

CVC (Cont.)

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE?

Benefits may be reduced or denied if the victim:

- participated in the crime
- engaged in illegal activity
- contributed to the crime
- was an inmate at the time of the crime
- knowingly or intentionally submitted false or forged information to the Crime Victims' Compensation Program
- did not cooperate with the appropriate law enforcement agencies

HOW DO I APPLY?

Every law enforcement agency and prosecutor's office in Texas is mandated to provide victims of crime with information and applications about the Crime Victims' Compensation Program. When contacting these agencies, please ask for the victim assistance coordinator or liaison, who can provide assistance in completing the application. Applications can be obtained from your local law enforcement agency.

Applications for benefits can be obtained directly from the Crime Victims' Compensation Program in the Office of the Attorney General by calling **800-983-9933**. Professional staff at the Office of the Attorney General are also available to answer any questions and provide assistance in completing the application.

WHAT CRIMES ARE COVERED.

Crimes covered by Crime Victims' Compensation are those in which the victim suffers a substantial threat of physical or emotional harm or death. These may include sexual assault, kidnapping, robbery, assault, homicide and other violent crimes.

Vehicular related crimes that are covered include failure to stop and render aid, DWI, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, aggravated assault, intoxication manslaughter and intoxication assault.

CVC (Cont.)

WHAT TYPE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE?

Claims may be approved for benefits up to a total of \$50.00. In the case of catastrophic injuries resulting in a total and permanent disability; victims may be eligible for an additional \$75.00 in benefits.

Upon approval, the following benefits may be awarded:

- medical, hospital, physical therapy or nursing care
- psychiatric care or counseling
- loss of earnings or support
- loss of wages and travel reimbursement due to participation in, or attendance at, the investigation, prosecution and judicial processes
- care of a child or dependent
- funeral and burial expenses
- crime scene clean-up
- replacement costs for clothing, bedding or other property seized as evidence or rendered unusable as the result of the investigation
- attorney fees for assistance in filing the Crime Victims' Compensation application and in obtaining benefits, if the claim is approved
- loss of wages and travel to seek medical treatment or counseling
- one-time relocation assistance for victims of family violence or a victim of sexual assault who is assaulted in the victim's place of residence.

CVC (Cont.)

Additional benefits for victims who have suffered a catastrophic injury include:

- making a home or car accessible
- job training and vocational rehabilitation
- training in the use of special appliances
- home health care
- reimbursement of lost wages
- Reimbursement for property damage or theft is not an eligible expense.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS TO APPEAL WHEN BENEFITS HAVE BEEN REDUCED OR DENIED?

If the Crime Victims' Compensation Program makes a decision with which the victim or claimant disagrees, he or she has a right under the law to ask that the decision be reconsidered. In order to appeal a decision, the victim or claimant must notify Crime Victims' Compensation in writing within 60 days, stating the reason for dissatisfaction. If the outcome of the reconsideration process is not satisfactory, the victim or claimant has 60 days to request a final ruling hearing from the Crime Victims' Compensation Program. Should the victim or claimant not agree with the outcome of the hearing, he or she may file an appeal with the district court within 40 days of the final ruling.

