



# VICTIM SERVICES & ADVOCACY PROGRAM






Houston's top non-profit that keeps you safe **everyday.**

The function of the Victim Services and Advocacy Program is to promote safety, healing, justice and rights for crime victims and survivors.

Being a victim of a crime is frightening and unsettling for the millions of Americans who unfortunately experience it each year. Progress has been made in improving the rights of crime victims. Victims and survivors of homicide, sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence and other serious offenses have transformed their victimization into a vehicle for ensuring that victims of crime receive justice, meaningful assistance and compassionate treatment.

## Do You Know Your Rights as a Crime Victim?

As a victim of violent crime in Texas, you have the following rights:

-  The right to be notified of all court proceedings including cancellation and rescheduling
-  The right to receive information about the Texas Crime Victim Compensation Fund that provides financial assistance to victims of violent crimes.
-  The right to have the magistrate take the safety of the victim or their family into consideration as an element in fixing the amount of bail for the accused.
-  If you so request, the right to information about 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 complete a Victim Impact Statement, detailing the emotional, physical and financial impact that the crime has had on you and your family, and to have that statement considered by the judge at sentencing and by the parole board.


## Mission in Action

The Victim Services and Advocacy Program provides the following to crime victims and survivors:

- Act as an advocate on all stages of victimization
- Ensure crime victims and survivors have a voice in our criminal justice system
- Empower crime victims and survivors to assist in rebuilding their lives
- Collaborate with law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, probation and parole departments, juvenile justice systems and social services in assisting all victims of crime
- Accompany victims and survivors to Court and Parole Board hearings
- Guide victims and survivors through media inquiries and engagements
- Refer victims and survivors to local, state-wide and national victim assistance organizations
- Work for legislative improvement to enhance victims' rights and public safety



### How to Report a Tip

 Call 713.222.TIPS (8477)

 Use our **Mobile App**  
Download app name: Crime Stoppers Houston

 Go to [crime-stoppers.org](http://crime-stoppers.org)

## Resources for Victims and Survivors

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### Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

AVDA  
713-224-9911

Bay Area Turning Point  
281-286-2525

Bridge Over Troubled Water  
713-472-0753

Daya  
713-981-7645

Family Time  
281-446-2615

Harris County Domestic Violence  
Coordinating Council  
281-400-3680

Houston Area Women's Center  
713-528-2121



### Drunk Driving

MADD  
281-590-2222



### Homicide

Parents of Murdered Children  
713-472-5640/713-522-9045



### Missing Persons

Texas Equusearch  
281-309-9500

Texas Center for the Missing  
281-309-9500



### Sexual Abuse of Children

Children's Assessment Center  
713-986-3300

## Law Enforcement Victim Services Department

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### Houston Police Department

713-308-0080



### Harris County Sheriff's Office

713-274-9369



### Harris County District Attorney's Office

713-274-0250



### Harris County Constable Pct. 5

832-927-1368



### Harris County Constable Pct. 7

713-274-3521



### Attorney General of Texas Crime Victim Services Division

713-267-3004



To contact Crime Stoppers of Houston's Director of Victim Services and Advocacy,  
Andy Kahan, call 713-923-5601 or email [akahan@crime-stoppers.org](mailto:akahan@crime-stoppers.org).