



VICTIM SERVICES & ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Promoting safety, healing, justice and rights for crime victims and survivors.

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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.



MISSION IN ACTION:

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

- Advocate for crime victims through all stages of victimization.
- Ensure crime victims and survivors in efforts to assist in the rebuilding of their lives.
- Assist in collaboration between law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, probation and parole departments, juvenile justice systems and social services.
- Accompany crime victims and survivors to Court and Parole Board hearings.
- Guide crime victims and survivors through media inquiries and speaking engagements.
- Refer crime victims and survivor to local, state-wide, and national victim assistance organizations.
- Work toward legislative improvements to enhance victims' rights and public safety.

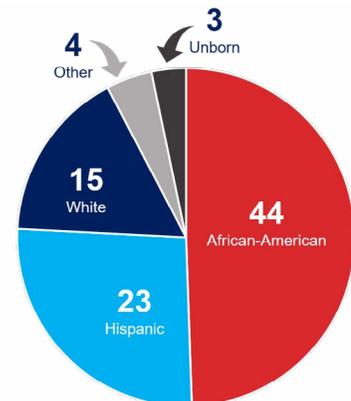
ADVOCACY IN ACTION:

In 2019, we noticed a trend in which many of the defendants charged with murder were released on multiple felony bonds, personal recognizance (PR) bonds, motion to revoke bond denied and bond forfeiture. Since then, we compiled a list of victims killed/murdered by defendants released on the above from 2018 through 2020 to include:

- 89 people total
- 51 homicides in 2020,
- 11 victims of domestic violence including 3 unborn children amongst the victims.

Visit bit.ly/CSOHBailReform to learn about the current status of our research and legislative efforts.

VICTIMS KILLED BY DEFENDANTS RELEASED ON MULTIPLE FELONY BONDS 2018-2020.



REQUEST ASSISTANCE

Do you or someone you know need victim services? Please contact our Director of Victim Services & Advocacy Program, Andy Kahan, at **713-923-5601** or akahan@crime-stoppers.org.





KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Do you know your rights in Texas? 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.



LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

The Victim Services and Advocacy Program works tirelessly to fight for necessary legislative changes. Since its inception in 2018, the program has seen the following legislative successes:

- **House Bill 2079** and **Senate Bill 2210**, also known as the 'Sir Romeo' bill, which allows families whose children are victims of attempted murder to apply for relocation expenses via the Crime Victims Compensation Program.
- **House Bill 1769**, also known as 'Clear Alert', which allows law enforcement to send out alerts for missing adults when criminal conduct is involved.
- **Senate Bill 4372**, also known as the *Summer Camp Safety bill*, which enhances the overall safety of campers and families.

RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

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 DEPARTMENTS

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