



# VICTIM SERVICES & ADVOCACY PROGRAM

PROMOTING SAFETY, HEALING, JUSTICE AND RIGHTS FOR CRIME VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

## VICTIM SERVICES & ADVOCACY PROGRAM

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.
- Assist crime victims and survivors in efforts to rebuild 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.

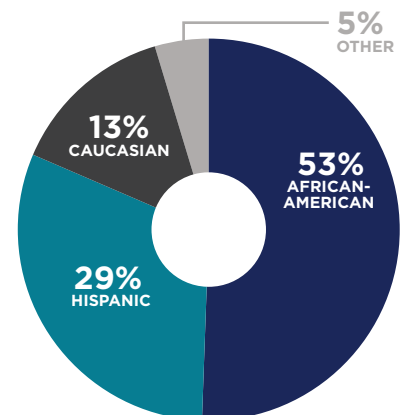
## ADVOCACY IN ACTION

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 2021 to include:

- 156 people total
- 119 homicides since 2020
- 17 victims of domestic violence including
- 3 unborn children amongst the victims

Visit [bit.ly/CSOHbailReform](https://bit.ly/CSOHbailReform) to learn about the current status of our research and legislative efforts.

## VICTIMS KILLED BY DEFENDANTS RELEASED ON MULTIPLE FELONY BONDS 2018-2021



## ANNUAL EVENTS

Join us for our annual events:

- National Night of Remembrance: **September 24, 2022**
- Holiday Memorial Remembrance Tree Ceremony: **December 10, 2022**

## VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT PROJECT

Victim Impact Statement Project is to enhance the ability of victims of violent crime to have their impact statements heard after the offender has been tried and convicted. Crime Stoppers will work with twenty victims of violent crime to create a video for Post-Conviction Advocacy with a designated coordinator. This work provides victims of violent crime an opportunity to always have their voices heard without the necessity of repeatedly appearing before a parole board. This Post Conviction Advocacy Program will act as a liaison between post-conviction governing bodies and actual victims and will guide them to filing the film with the proper authority

### 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 were able to reach 921 people statewide.

### 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
- Senate Bill 6, also known as the "Damon Allen Act" eliminates PR bonds for defendants charged with particular violent crimes.

## 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

## 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](mailto:akahan@crime-stoppers.org).