



Confidentiality and Privilege

Each participating DVHRT partner will securely protect all information exchanged during meetings. All DVHRT partners agree to not disclose any of the shared information outside of the DVHRT, except as necessary in court and with other members of their office, for the specific purpose of supporting survivor safety.

Further, DVHRT members should respect the different obligations each partner must abide by, including those family violence centers must adhere to in the scope of their advocacy. These include those under the *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)*, the *Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA)*, the *Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)*, and the *Texas Family Code Chapter 93*.

Each additional agency agrees to abide by its own professional obligations in protecting the privacy of victims and respect all relevant laws and codes on releases of information. Agencies may sign a memorandum of understanding that includes privacy obligations when joining the DVHRT and prior to each table meeting.

Coordinators and other DVHRT team members should be familiar with the following codes:

- » The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act: Comprehensive confidentiality requirements for family violence programs.
[Available at this link.](#)
- » Chapter 93 of the Texas Family Code: Outlines victim-advocate privilege laws in Texas.
[Available at this link.](#)
- » The Violence Against Women Act: Comprehensive confidentiality provisions for family violence centers and other partner agencies.
[Available at this link.](#)
- » Victims of Crime Act: Confidentiality provisions for all who receive funds from VOCA.
[Available at this link.](#)

Further, an overview of the Federal statutes cited above is [available at this link](#), and a training overview is [available at this link](#).