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TEXAS COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

# ADVOCACY *in* ACTION:

## Civil and Criminal Legal Advocacy

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## Civil and Criminal Legal Advocacy

Both the civil and criminal legal systems are incredibly complex and can have lasting impacts on a survivor's safety and well-being. As such, navigating these systems alone can be frustrating and confusing for survivors. Chapter 51 of the Human Resources Code requires family violence centers provide certain advocacy services to survivors, including advocacy focused on the civil and criminal legal systems. As an advocate, you can support survivors throughout the legal process by informing them of their rights and the options available to them, accompanying them to proceedings; connecting them to legal services; and helping them feel empowered to make informed decisions regarding their safety.

In this tip sheet, you'll find an overview of many of the rights and options available to survivors within these systems; tips to assist you in your work with survivors; and other helpful information. Learning the differences between the civil and criminal legal systems, as well as the terms used in these cases can be a challenge, so it may be helpful to review the Victim Rights Law Center's Legal Advocate Guide as an additional resource.

## Family Violence

We know that family violence can take on many forms. However, the Texas legal definition of family violence is more limited in scope and can be found in the Texas Family Code.

### *How does the Texas Family Code define family violence?*

Family violence is defined as:

1. an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household 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, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself;

2. abuse, as that term is defined by Sections 261.001 (1)(C), (E), (G), (H), (I), (J), (K), and (M), by a member of a family or household toward a child of the family or household; or

3. dating violence, as that term is defined by Section 71.0021.

*It is important to know and understand this definition, as it is the definition used in both civil and criminal cases in Texas. Relevant Law: **Sec. 71.004, Family Code.***



# Protective Orders

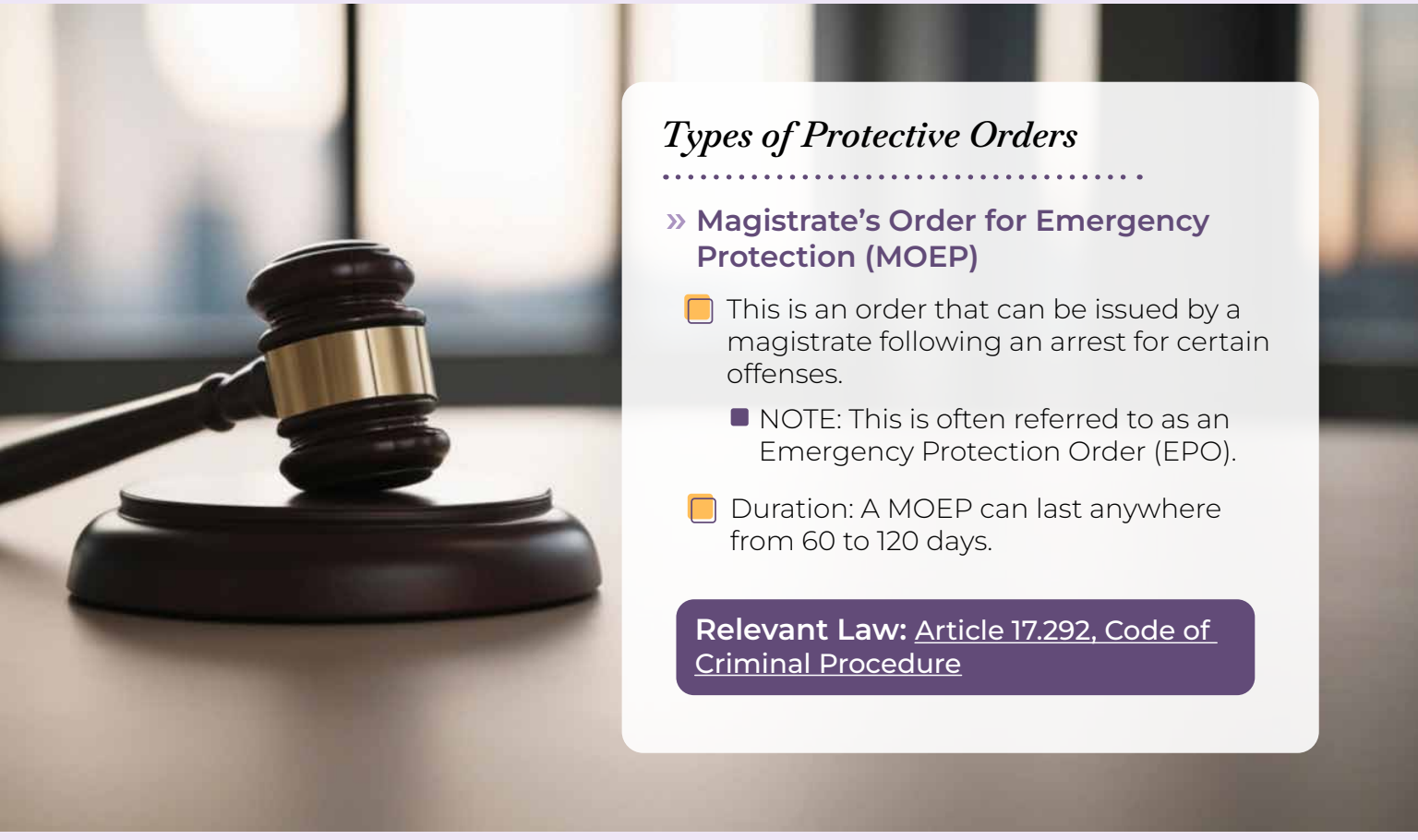
Protective orders are orders from a court that put protections in place and prohibit a party from taking certain actions. In Texas, there are three types of protective orders related to family violence.

**Types of Protective Orders**

- Magistrate's Order for Emergency Protection
- Protective Order
- Temporary Ex Parte Protective Order

Some of the protections these orders can provide include:

- Prohibiting the other party from:
  - committing family violence;
  - communicating with the survivor (at all or in a threatening or harassing manner);
  - possessing a firearm;
  - going to or near certain locations;
  - engaging in conduct that is likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass the survivor;
  - harming, threatening, or interfering with the care/control of a pet or assistance animal;
  - tracking or monitoring the survivor's personal property or vehicle;
  - removing a child from survivor's possession; and
  - getting rid of property that is mutually owned or leased by both parties.
- The court may also:
  - grant exclusive use of a residence (Kick Out Order);
  - provide orders regarding visitation with a child; and
  - require the party to complete a BIPP.



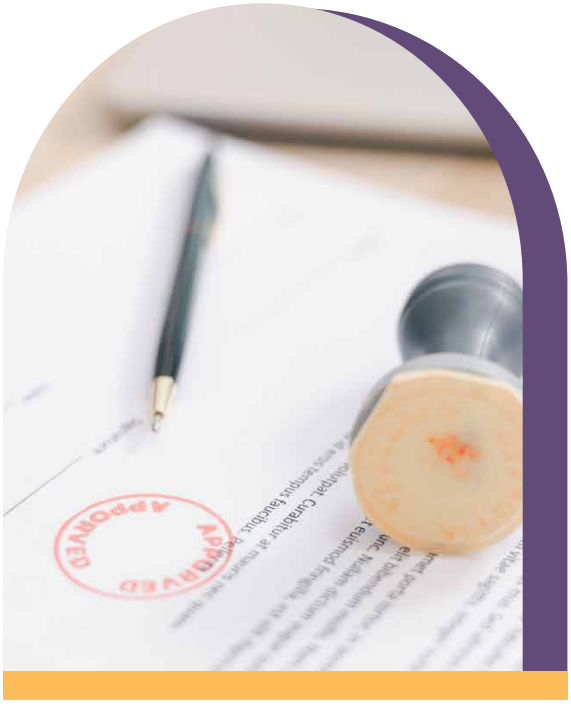
## *Types of Protective Orders*

### Magistrate's Order for Emergency Protection (MOEP)

- This is an order that can be issued by a magistrate following an arrest for certain offenses.
  - NOTE: This is often referred to as an Emergency Protection Order (EPO).
- Duration: A MOEP can last anywhere from 60 to 120 days.

**Relevant Law:** Article 17.292, Code of Criminal Procedure

## *Types of Protective Orders* *continued*




### » Protective Order (Texas Family Code)

- Survivors of family violence can apply for a protective order under Title 4 of the Texas Family Code.
- Duration: POs typically last 2 years or less, but they can last longer if the court finds the party:
  - committed an act constituting a felony family violence offense;
  - caused serious bodily injury; or
  - was the subject of two or more previous POs in regard to the survivor applicant.
- NOTE: POs rendered against a party in a divorce, SAPCR, or criminal family violence case expire 2 years after the date a final order is rendered in the case.

**Relevant Law:** Title 4, Subtitle B, Family Code

### » Temporary Ex Parte Protective Order (TexPO)

- This is a short-term protective order that may be used to provide protection until the court can have a full hearing on the application for a Protective Order.
- Duration: TexPOs cannot exceed 20 days, but the court may extend the order for additional 20-day periods.
- NOTE: The court can issue a TexPO without the other party present and without notice of a hearing.

**Relevant Law:** Chapter 83, Family Code

## *Important Information*

### CHILD CUSTODY ORDERS AND PROTECTIVE ORDERS

Senate Bill 1559 passed during the 89th legislative session, clarifying which order controls in the event there is a conflict between a Civil Protective Order and orders made in a SAPCR. To the extent there are conflicting orders in a Protective Order issued under the Texas Family Code, including a TexPO, and orders in a SAPCR, the Protective Order prevails.

### VIOLATIONS OF PROTECTIVE ORDERS

Certain violations of POs are an arrestable offense under the Penal Code. This means the party violating the order can be arrested and charged with a crime for violating the order. Importantly, a survivor that is protected by a PO cannot be charged for violating the PO. Civil Protective Orders can also be enforced through contempt, which can result in both fines and civil confinement for violating the order. Relevant Law: Sec. 25.07, Penal Code.

## *Tips for Advocates*

Protective Orders are just one tool in the toolkit for survivor safety, and not every survivor will choose to seek a PO. Safety is an ongoing issue, meaning even if there is a PO in place, advocates should still offer safety planning for the survivor. Remember to consider other aspects of a survivor's life that can impact their safety:

- Do they have children, and are there child support or custody orders in place?
- Do they have access to necessities, such as food, shelter, and healthcare?
- Do they have access to long-term support, such as advocacy and mental health services?

# Civil Legal System

While the civil legal system can include a variety of cases, survivors are most often involved in this system through a divorce, child custody case, or to seek a protective order. The next section contains helpful information about the civil legal system as it relates to divorces/child custody.

## *Important Information: Divorce Cases*

### FAULT

Texas offers "no-fault" divorce, meaning the court can grant a divorce without determining "fault" and without the other party agreeing to the divorce.

**Relevant Law:** Sec. 6.001, Family Code

### FILING FOR DIVORCE - LOCATION

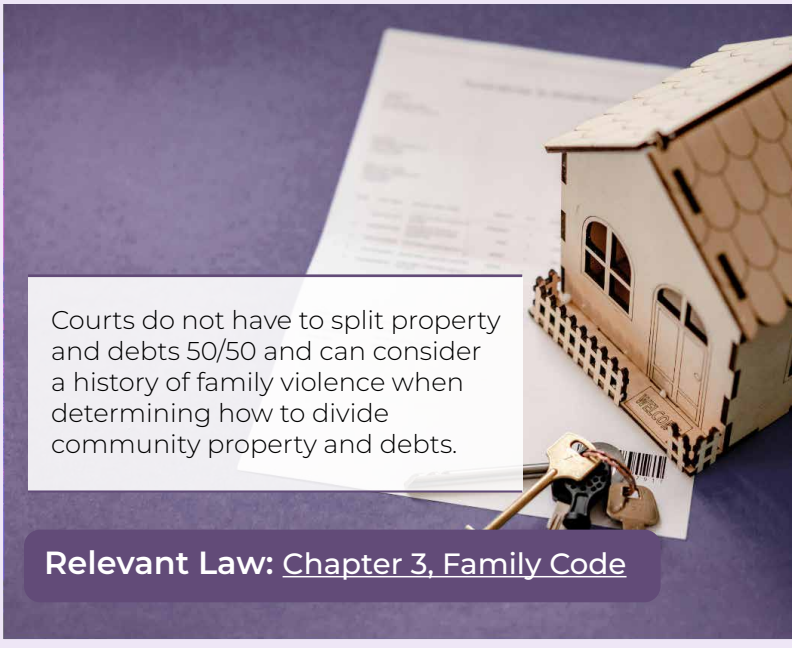
To file for divorce in Texas, one of the spouses must have lived in Texas for the preceding 6 months and lived in the county where the suit is filed for the 90 days preceding the filing.

**Relevant Law:** Sec. 6.301, Family Code

### PROPERTY AND DEBT

Texas is a community property state, meaning all property possessed by either spouse at the time of the divorce is presumed to be community property. Separate property must be proven by clear and convincing evidence and includes:

- property owned or claimed by the spouse before marriage;
- property acquired by the spouse during the marriage by gift, devise, or descent; and
- the recovery of personal injuries sustained by the spouse during the marriage (except recovery for loss of earning capacity).



Courts do not have to split property and debts 50/50 and can consider a history of family violence when determining how to divide community property and debts.

**Relevant Law:** Chapter 3, Family Code

## *Important Information: SAPCR*



### » SUIT AFFECTING THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

In Texas, a child custody case is called a Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship (SAPCR). A possession and access order tells the parties when each parent has the right to spend time with the child.

### » HISTORY OR PATTERN OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

The court is required to consider family violence when determining whether to deny, restrict, or limit access to a child.

If it is shown that a parent has a history or pattern of committing family violence, the court may not allow that parent to access the child, unless the court:

- finds awarding access to the child would not endanger the child's physical health or emotional welfare and would be in the child's best interest; and
- renders an order designed to protect the safety and well-being of the child and the other person who has been a victim of the family violence.

*These orders can require:*

- access be supervised;
- exchange of possession occur in a protective setting;
- the parent abstain from consuming alcohol or a controlled substance within 12 hours prior to or during access; and
- the parent attend a BIPP.

***Credible evidence of family violence creates a rebuttable presumption that unsupervised access is not in the child's best interest.***

**Relevant Law:** Sec. 153.004, Family Code

### » CONSERVATORSHIP

The legal term for custody in Texas is "conservatorship." Conservatorship outlines each parents' decision-making authority.

*When determining conservatorship, the court must consider a history of family violence and whether there was a final protective order rendered against a party.* The court may not appoint joint managing conservators if credible evidence is presented of a history or pattern of physical or sexual abuse by one parent directed against the other parent, a spouse, or a child.

**Relevant Law:** Sec. 153.004, Family Code & Sec. 153.005, Family Code

## *Important Information: Divorces and SAPCRs*

### » MEDIATION

Courts often order parties in a divorce or SAPCR case to attend mediation. Before the court orders mediation, the survivor can file an objection to referral to mediation. The other party can then request a hearing on the objection. If the court still orders mediation, it must order appropriate safety measures.

The order must prohibit parties from being required to have face-to-face contact and require that parties be placed in separate rooms during the mediation.

**Relevant Law:** Sec. 6.602, Family Code

### » TEMPORARY ORDERS

While a divorce or SAPCR is pending, the court can make temporary orders for the parties to follow until final orders are made. These can include orders regarding conservatorship or possession of a child, child support, use of community property, etc. A party can also request a Temporary Restraining Order, which can be used to put safety mechanisms in place until the court can make temporary orders.

**Relevant Law:** Sec. 6.501, Family Code, Sec. 6.502, Family Code, & Sec. 105.001, Family Code

### » WAIVER OF COURT COSTS

A party that cannot afford court costs can file a statement of inability to afford court costs, which waives certain costs and fees associated with a case. For non-English speakers, this includes the cost of an interpreter.

**Relevant Law:** Rule 145, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure

## *Tips for Advocates: Divorces and SAPCRs*

### LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Having legal representation can not only help a survivor feel empowered, but it can also have a major impact on the outcome of a case. For survivors involved in a civil case, it is important to help them locate an attorney. If they cannot obtain an attorney, providing resources, such as Texas Law Help or legal hotlines, can help them navigate the process.

### COURT SUPPORT

Court can be incredibly stressful. Accompanying a survivor to court can provide emotional support and opportunities for continued safety planning.



### » ONGOING SAFETY PLANNING



- Consider safety risks that might occur before, during, and after the court proceedings.
- Discuss travel arrangements and discuss any safety concerns with parking.
- Ensure the survivor has clear directions on where the courthouse is and that they know the location of the courtroom within the courthouse.
- Court days can run long. Locate safe spaces within the courthouse, where the survivor can decompress outside of the presence of the other party.
- Discuss and plan for safety concerns regarding visitation.

# Criminal Legal System

## *Important Information*

The criminal justice system can provide an opportunity for survivors to have their voices heard and obtain long-term protection, but it can also be a source of confusion, fear, and uncertainty. The more you know about the criminal legal system as an advocate, the more you will be able to assist survivors as they navigate the process. The following pages include important information for advocates to know in order to work with and help empower survivors.

### » CRIMINAL CHARGES

When we think of criminal family violence cases, we might think of an assault case. Even in cases where a physical assault has occurred, the defendant may be charged with a different crime. Prosecutors consider many factors when determining how to prosecute a case, such as:

- the facts of the case;
- the evidence available; and
- prior criminal history.



Some other crimes you might see associated with a family violence case might include:

- stalking and harassment;
- unlawful tracking;
- violation of a protective order;
- sexual offenses;
- interference with an emergency request for assistance; and
- unlawful restraint.

## » BOND CONDITIONS

Bond conditions are requirements that a defendant must follow while a criminal case is pending. If a defendant violates a bond condition, they may be arrested and/or have their bond revoked. Examples of common bond conditions in family violence cases include:

- no contact orders;
- "stay away" provisions; and
- firearm prohibitions.

**Relevant Law:** Sec. 25.07, Penal Code

To learn more about recent legislation pertaining to these systems, head to TCFV's Public Policy page at: **https://tcfv.org/public-policy/**

## » VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS

Survivors have the right to provide a victim impact statement to the prosecuting attorney. Before sentencing a defendant, the court is required to consider the statement. If the court sentences the defendant to community supervision, the statement is forwarded to the community supervision and corrections department that will be supervising the defendant. If the defendant is imprisoned, the statement is included in the commitment papers. Not every survivor will want to submit a statement, and it is important to support them in whatever decision they make.

**Relevant Law:** Art. 56A.051, Code of Criminal Procedure & Art. 56A.159, Code of Criminal Procedure

## » CRIME VICTIMS' COMPENSATION

Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) is a statewide program that can provide financial assistance for survivors of certain crimes, including family violence, to cover certain expenses. To learn more information about eligibility and covered costs, visit the Texas Attorney General's Office website.



## » SYSTEM-BASED VS COMMUNITY-BASED ADVOCATES

- **Community-based advocates** are advocates that work for public or private non-profits. This includes advocates employed by the non-profit, as well as volunteers. Information disclosed to a community-based family violence advocate is confidential, with a few minor exceptions.
- **System-based advocates** are advocates that are employed by government agencies, such as the prosecutor's office or law enforcement. The law imposes certain legal obligations on the prosecutor's office and, by extension, other government agencies working on the case (such as law enforcement) to turn over certain information to the defendant and their attorney. This means system-based advocates do not have all of the same confidentiality protections that community-based advocates are afforded. System-based advocates might include Victim Assistance Coordinators, Crime Victim Liaisons, and other advocates employed by a government agency. System-based advocates should be aware of disclosure requirements under *Brady v. Maryland* and its impacts on privacy. For more information on system-based advocates, see the glossary.

***Maintaining survivor confidentiality as legally required is imperative for survivor safety.***

Providing survivors with information about these roles and how they intersect with privacy/confidentiality can help them understand their rights and protections and help them make informed decisions regarding their privacy. For more information and resources about privacy and confidentiality, visit our privacy page at this LINK.

## *Tips for Advocates*

### » PRIOR EXPERIENCES

Survivors may have had prior negative experiences with the criminal justice system. They might be fearful or skeptical of those involved, which may stem from experiences related to their case or from other parts of their identity.

- Dismissing or invalidating these concerns can further isolate the survivor and lower the likelihood of the survivor seeking help in the future.
- Understanding how these experiences may have affected the survivor can help you better support them as they make decisions.

### » SAFETY PLANNING

The same safety planning considerations discussed in the civil cases apply to criminal cases. Here are a few other important considerations specific to criminal cases.

#### SAFETY CONCERNS

Even if the defendant is being held pending trial, a survivor may have safety concerns related to the defendant's family or friends. It is important to take these concerns seriously and to address them with proper safety planning.

#### OFFENDER STATUS NOTIFICATIONS

Inform the survivor of the Integrated Victim Services System (IVSS) and help them register for notifications about change of custody status.

- NOTE: Texas recently transitioned from VINE to IVSS. If you are not yet familiar with the new system, you will want to familiarize yourself beforehand.

#### JAIL CALLS

If the survivor is receiving unwanted jail calls, discuss the option of blocking the calls and assist with the process.

#### COURT SUPPORT FOR CRIMINAL CASES

Walking into a criminal courtroom can be intimidating, even for someone that is not a survivor. Here are a few ways you can help a survivor prepare for a hearing:

- Follow all the same safety planning considerations discussed for civil cases.
- Go with the survivor to the courthouse ahead of the hearing, to ensure they know exactly where to go on the day of the hearing.
- Go into the courtroom with the survivor and discuss where everyone will be located during the hearing. The defendant will typically be located at the table furthest from the jury box.

# Crime Victims' Rights

The law provides victims of crime a number of guaranteed rights. In Texas, these can be found in Chapter 56A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as well as Article 1, Section 30 of the Texas Constitution. The summary below provides an overview of the rights afforded to victims of family violence.

## Rights of Crime Victims - Article 1, Section 30, Texas Constitution

A crime victim has the right to be:

- treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy throughout the criminal justice process; and
- reasonably protected from the accused throughout the criminal justice process.



On request, the crime victim also has the following right to:

- notification of court proceedings;
- be present at all public court proceedings related to the offense, unless the victim is to testify and the court determines that the victim's testimony would be materially affected if the victim hears other testimony;
- confer with a representative of the prosecutor's office;
- restitution; and
- information about the conviction, imprisonment, and release of the accused.

## General Rights of Crime Victims - Article 56A.051, Code of Criminal Procedure

A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim is entitled to the following rights within the criminal justice system:

The right to:

- receive from a law enforcement agency adequate protection from harm and threats of harm arising from cooperation with prosecution efforts;
- have the magistrate consider the safety of the victim or the victim's family in setting the amount of bail;
- provide pertinent information to the community supervision and corrections department conducting a presentencing investigation concerning the impact of the offense on the victim and the victim's family by testimony, written statement, or any other manner before any sentencing of the defendant;

## General Rights of Crime Victims - Article 56A.051, Code of Criminal Procedure

*continued*

- to receive information:
  - regarding compensation to victims of crime as provided by Chapter 56B,
  - for a victim of a sexual assault, regarding the payment for a forensic medical examination and for any prescribed continuing medical care that is related to the sexual assault and provided to the victim during the 30-day period following that examination; and
  - when requested, providing a referral to available social service agencies that may offer additional assistance;
- be informed, on request, of parole procedures;
- participate in the parole process;
- provide information to the board for inclusion in the defendant's file to be considered by the board before the parole of the defendant;
- be notified, if requested, of certain information regarding parole proceedings and the defendant's release on parole;

> **Learn more about Crime Victims Rights in Texas here:**
> **https://texaslawhelp.org/individual-rights/crime-victim-rights**

- be provided with a waiting area, separate or secure from other witnesses, including the defendant and relatives of the defendant, before testifying in any proceeding concerning the defendant; if a separate waiting area is not available, other safeguards should be taken to minimize contact;
- the prompt return of any of the victim's property that is held by a law enforcement agency or the attorney representing the state as evidence when the property is no longer required;
- have the attorney representing the state notify the victim's employer, if requested, that the victim's cooperation and testimony is necessary in a proceeding that may require the victim to be absent from work for good cause;
- request victim-offender mediation coordinated by the victim services division of the department; and
- be informed of the uses of a victim impact statement and the statement's purpose in the criminal justice system, to complete the victim impact statement, and to have the victim impact statement considered:
  - by the attorney representing the state and the judge before sentencing or before a plea bargain agreement is accepted and by the board before a defendant is released on parole;

## General Rights of Crime Victims - Article 56A.051, Code of Criminal Procedure

*continued*

If requested, the right to be informed by:

- the prosecutor of relevant court proceedings at least five business days before the date of each proceeding or otherwise as soon as reasonably practicable, and to be informed as soon as possible if those proceedings have been canceled or rescheduled before the event;
- an appellate court of the court's decisions, after the decisions are entered but before the decisions are made public;
- a peace officer concerning the defendant's right to bail and the procedures in criminal investigations; and
- by the office of the attorney representing the state concerning the general procedures in the criminal justice system and whether the defendant has fully complied with any conditions of the defendant's bail.

*For a victim of an assault, aggravated assault, or sexual assault who is younger than 17 years of age or whose case involves family violence, the right to have the court consider the impact on the victim of a continuance requested by the defendant; if requested by prosecutor or by the defendant's attorney, the court shall state on the record the reason for granting or denying the continuance.*



***A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim is entitled to the right to be present at all public court proceedings related to the offense, subject to the approval of the judge in the case.***

The prosecutor's office and the sheriff, police, and other law enforcement agencies shall ensure to the extent practicable that a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim is provided the rights granted by this subchapter and, on request, an explanation of those rights.

An advocate for a victim is entitled to obtain on behalf of the victim the information described by Subsection (a)(7)(D).

### Additional Rights of Victims of Certain Family Violence Offenses, Stalking, and Violation of Protective Order or Condition of Bond - Article 56A.0521, Code of Criminal Procedure

A victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim family violence is entitled to the following rights within the criminal justice system:

If requested, the right to:

- a disclosure of information regarding any evidence that was collected during the investigation, unless disclosing the information would interfere with the investigation/prosecution and the status of any analysis being performed on any of the evidence;
- be notified at the time a request is submitted to a crime laboratory to process and analyze any evidence that was collected during the investigation;
- be informed about, and confer with the prosecutor regarding, the disposition of the offense, including sharing the victim's, guardian's, or relative's views regarding:
  - a decision not to file charges; the dismissal of charges; the use of a pretrial intervention program; or a plea bargain agreement.

***The right to be notified that the prosecutor does not represent the victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim.***

For an offense under Section 42.072, Penal Code, all of the rights provided to victims, parents, and guardians as described by Article 56A.052(d), Code of Criminal Procedure for the offenses to which that subsection applies.



### *Tips for Advocates*

The summary above provides an overview of the rights afforded to victims of family violence. However, you are encouraged to read the full statutes. The better you know and understand what rights survivors have as crime victims, the better you will be able to help them exercise their rights. Learn more about Crime Victims Rights in Texas here: https://texaslawhelp.org/individual-rights/crime-victim-rights.

## Additional Information

#### » REMINDER

Advocates can play a pivotal role in survivor safety and well-being, by informing survivors of their rights and options, safety planning, and providing support throughout the civil and criminal system. Survivors are the experts in their own experiences. Although it may be hard at times, remember not to try to sway a survivor toward any particular option. Instead, have discussions with the survivor about their case to help empower them as they make informed and independent decisions about their safety.

## » LINKS AND RESOURCES:

### *Legal Resources:*

- **Texas Advocacy Project (TAP):** TAP is a statewide organization that provides free legal services to survivors of family violence.
- **Tahirih Justice Center:** Tahirih is an organization with offices across the U.S. that provides legal services to immigrants who are survivors of violence.
- **Legal Aid Organizations:** Legal aid organizations provide free legal services across the state of Texas. Visit this link from the Texas State Law Library to locate the nearest legal aid program.
- **Texas Legal Services Center (TLSC):** TLSC is an organization that provides legal services to survivors of family violence.
  - **Texas Law Help:** Texas Law Help is a program of TLSC and provides resources and information on a variety of issues survivors may face.

### *Other helpful links for assisting survivors:*

- **IVSS - Integrated Victim Services System**
- **Crime Victims' Compensation Program**
- **Crime Victims' Rights**
- **Address Confidentiality Program**
- **TCFV - Find Help**

To find other resources and learn more about our work, visit TCFV Public Policy.

Finally, *thank you* for all the work you do today and every day to support survivors.

For questions about this tip sheet, please reach out to us at **Policy@TCFV.org**.

# *Glossary and Other Helpful Information*

This page contains other terms you might hear in relation to the civil or criminal legal systems, as well as information you might find helpful. To learn other legal terms not included below, checkout Texas Advocacy Project's Glossary.

**Affirmative Defense –** A defense in which the defendant admits guilt but provides a legal excuse or justification for their actions. Affirmative defenses allow a defendant to avoid the legal responsibility for the offense they are charged with.

**Rebuttable Presumption** – A legal assumption that a court must accept as true unless enough evidence is provided to the contrary.

**Defendant** – The person formally accused of committing a crime in a criminal case.

**Plaintiff** – The party in a civil case that initiated the civil suit against the other party.

**Respondent** – The party against whom the civil case is filed.

**Affidavit** – A sworn, written statement.

## Types of Conservatorship

- **Sole Managing Conservator:** One parent is awarded the right to make all important decisions for the child, without needing to consult the other parent.
- **Joint Managing Conservators:** Parents share decision-making power regarding the child. However, one parent may still be awarded the sole right to make certain decisions, such as designating the child's primary residence.
- **Possessory Conservator:** The parent does not typically have the right to make major decisions for the child but still has visitation rights.

## System-Based Advocates

- **Victim Assistance Coordinator:** The Code of Criminal Procedure requires each prosecuting attorney's office to appoint a Victim Assistance Coordinator. Their duties include:
  - ensuring the victim is provided the rights they are granted as a crime victim;
  - working closely with law enforcement, prosecutors, the board, and the judiciary;
  - providing information about victim impact statements and crime victims' compensation to the victim and offering to assist with both;
  - on request, explaining the use and consideration of an impact statement at any sentencing or parole hearing.

**Relevant Law:** Art. 56A.202, Code of Criminal Procedure

## *Glossary and Other Helpful Information* *continued*

This page contains other terms you might hear in relation to the civil or criminal legal systems, as well as information you might find helpful. To learn other legal terms not included below, checkout Texas Advocacy Project's Glossary.

- **Crime Victim Liaison:** The Code of Criminal Procedure also requires each local law enforcement agency to designate a Crime Victim Liaison. Their duties include:
  - ensuring the victim is provided certain rights they are granted as a crime victim under Article 56A.051 (a)(4), (6), and (9); and
  - consulting with the Victim Assistance Coordinator to determine the most effective manner in which they can perform their duties as the Crime Victim Liaison.

**Relevant Law:** Art. 56A.204, Code of Criminal Procedure

- Other Advocates Employed by Government Agencies
  - Some offices, especially in larger counties, may have several advocates employed at their agency. These advocates would also be considered system-based advocates.

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INDIVIDUALLY WE POWER CHANGE.
TOGETHER WE POWER A MOVEMENT.

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