**Victim Services Information**

**For**

**Victims and Family Survivors**

**Of**

**Violent Crimes**



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**Offense Report Number**

Washington County Sheriff’s Office

1206 Old Independence Road

Brenham, TX 77833

(979) 277-6251

***You may call the law enforcement agency’s telephone***

 ***number for the status of the case***

***or information about victim’s rights.***

**Resources**

**Emergency**…………………………………..…………………….**911**

**24 Hour Non-Emergency**………….……….…979-277-7373

**Hotlines**

 Adult/Child Protective Services………. 800-252-5400

 TDCJ Victim Services………………….…….800-848-4284

 Twin City/Phoebe’s Home………..………979-775-5355

 TX Crime Victims’ Clearing House…….800-252-3423

 National Domestic Violence…………....800-799-SAFE (7233)

 National Sexual Assault Hotline…….…800-656-HOPE (4673)

 TX Youth Hotline……………………….…….800-989-6884

 Mothers Against Drunk Driving……….877-MADD-HELP

**General**

 Attorney General

 Crime Victim’s Division……….…..800-983-9933

 Washington Co. District Atty………..….979-277-6247

 Washington Co. Atty………………..………979-277-6214

 Brazos Co. Counseling Svc…………..……979-774-2863

 Scotty’s House…………………….…………..979-703-0608

 Sexual Assault Resource Ctr……….……979-731-1000

 Brenham Faith Mission…………….……..979-830-1488

 Washington Co. Dom. Viol. Adv……….979-251-7111

 Washington Co. Adult Probation….….979-277-6240

 Washington Co. Juv. Probation………..979-277-6245

 MHMRA…………………………………………..979-830-0008

 Mental Health Treatment……….……….800-615-3564

 Texas VINE…………………………………….…877-894-8463

 Brazos County Rape Crisis………………..979-731-1000

 Brazos Valley Women’s Ctr………………979-776-5602

 Lone Star Legal Aid (Bryan, TX)…………979-775-5050

 CASA For Kids…………………………………..979-277-0088

**Hospital**

 Scott and White……………………………979-337-5000

If you require immediate medical treatment, the 911 operator will arrange emergency medical treatment or transportation by ambulance to the nearest receiving hospital. All costs for transportation and medical treatment are the responsibility of the victim. You may be eligible for reimbursement of costs, by applying for Crime Victim’s Compensation. Medical examinations of sexual assault victims will be provided at no cost (Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 56.06).

**Crime Victims’ Compensation**

Crime Victims’ Compensation is a division of the Attorney General’s Office. The program reimburses innocent victims of violent crime for some out-of-pocket expenses they suffer as a result of the crime. Crime Victims’ Compensation is available to pay the amount of expense reasonably and necessarily incurred for:

* Medical, counseling, prescription, and rehabilitative services.
* Partial loss of earnings because of a disability resulting from personal injury.
* Childcare for minor children to enable a victim or spouse of a deceased victim to continue employment.
* Funeral and burial expenses
* Reasonable costs associated with crime scene cleanup
* Reasonable replacement costs for clothing, bedding or other property taken as evidence or rendered unusable as a result of the criminal investigation.
* Loss of wages and travel reimbursement due to participation in or attendance at the invstigation, prosecutorial, and judicial process.
* Relocation expenses for certain victims of family violence and sexual assault.

Reimbursement for property damage or loss is not an eligible excuse.

To submit a claim, a victim or family member must send a Crime Victims’ Compensation application to the Texas Attorney General’s Office. Victims or family members needing an application can access the application via the internet at

<https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/crime-victims-compensation>

Mail application to:

Office of the Attorney General

Crime Victims’ Compensation Division

P.O. Box 12548, Austin, TX 78711-2548

Claims Division: 1-800-983-9933

The **County Attorney or District Attorney Crime Service Coordinator** will assist you in applying for Crime Victims’ compensation benefits. Upon request, we will provide you with the necessary claim form. The Sheriff’s Office will submit all claim forms and any other required documentation to the Crime Victims’ Compensation Division.

**NOTICE TO ADULT VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE**

It is a crime for any person to cause you any physical injury or harm, even if that person is a member or former member of your family or household.

**Please tell the investigating peace officer:**

\*if you, your child, or any other household resident has been injured; or

\* if you feel you are going to be in danger after the officer leaves.

**You have the right to:**

Ask the local prosecutor to file a criminal complaint

Against the person committing family violence; and apply to a court for an order to protect you. To do so, you should consult a legal aid office, prosecuting attorney. If a family or household member assaults you and is arrested, you may request that a Magistrate’s Order for Emergency Protection be issued. Please inform the investigating officer if you want an order of emergency protection. You need not be present when the order is issued. You cannot be charged a fee by a court in connection with filing, serving, or entering a protective order.

For Example, the court can enter an order that:

(a) The abuser not commit further acts of violence;

(b) The abuser not threaten, harass or contact you

 at home;

(c) Directs the abuser to leave your household;

(d) Establishes temporary custody of your children

 and directs the abuser not to interfere with your

 children or any property.

A violation of certain provisions of court order protection such as (a) and (b) above might be a felony.

**For assistance regarding family violence, contact Washington County Attorney or Washington County District Attorney at (979) 277-6200.**

**What is a Protective Order?**

A Protective Order is a legal remedy for the use and protection of victims of family violence. It can be obtained by filing an application with the County or District Attorney’s Office in the county in which you reside. The Protective Order may be good for up to two years and can supersede any other court orders currently in place. Police can enforce a violation of this order. It may take several weeks to get a final Protective Order. You may contact the resource numbers listed in the back if you have questions or need help in applying for a Protective Order, or help with planning for your safety in the meantime.

**RIGHTS OF CRIME VICTIMS**

As defined in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 56, Subchapter A, Crime Victims’ Rights, a victim of a violent crime is someone who: (1) has suffered bodily injury or death as a result of criminally injurious conduct, or who has been the victim of a crime involving sexual assault, kidnapping, or aggravated robbery; (2) is the close relative (spouse, parent, brother, sister, or adult child) or (3) is the guardian of a victim. As a victim of violent crime, you have the following rights:

1. The right to receive adequate protection from harm and threats of harm arising from cooperation with prosecution efforts.

2. The right to have the magistrate take your safety and that of your family into consideration when bail is being considered.

3. The right, if you so request, to be informed of relevant court proceedings and of those court proceedings that have been cancelled or rescheduled and to be informed of appellate proceedings.

4. The right, if you so request, 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.

5. The right to receive information about the Texas Crime Victims’ Compensation fund that provides financial assistance to victims of violent crimes and, if you so request, referral to available social service agencies that may provide additional help.

6. The right to provide information to a probation department conducting a pre-sentence investigation on the impact of the crime.

7. The right to have a law enforcement agency pay for medical examinations for victims of sexual assault and on request, the right to counseling regarding AIDS and HIV infection and testing for sexual assault victims.

8. If you so request, the right to be notified of parole proceedings by the Victim Services Section of the Pardons and Paroles Division, the right to participation in the parole process by submitting a Victim Impact Statement or other information and the right to be notified of the inmate’s release.

9. The right to be present at all public court proceedings, if the presiding judge permits.

10. The right to a safe waiting area before and during court proceedings.

11. The right to prompt return of any property that is no longer required as evidence.

12. If you so request, the right to have the prosecutor notify your employer that the need for your testimony may involve your absence from work.

13. 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 prior to sentencing and/or entry of a plea bargain and by the parole board prior to taking any parole action.

**NOTE*:*** *Article 56 states: “A judge, attorney for the state, peace officer, or law enforcement agency is not liable for a failure or inability to provide a right enumerated in this article.”*

***The Washington County Sheriff’s Office works closely with various social service and legal agency resources available in our area.***