

RESOURCE LIST

Emergency	911
A Place for Grace	817.599.4700
ARRT	817.596.3022
Adult Protective Service	800.252.5400
Alcoholics Anonymous	817.598.9021
Azle Police Dept.	817.444.3221
Center of Hope	817.594.0266
Child Protective Service	800.252.5400
County Attorney	817.594.8409
District Attorney	817.598.6124
Freedom House	817.596.7543
Hope Domestic Violence Shelter	940.325.1306
Hudson Oaks Police Dept.	682.229.2426
Int'l. Society for Traumatic Stress	847.480.9028
Legal Aid of North West Texas	817.594.6332
Manna, Inc.	817.599.6569
National Domestic Violence Hotline	800.799.7233
Parker County Sheriff	817.594.8845
Reno (Azle) Police Dept.	817.221.2500
One Safe Place	817.885.7774
Springtown Police Dept.	817.220.0828
Star Council - Substance Abuse	800.375.1395
Suicide Prevention Crisis Intervention	800.273.8255
Texas Crime Stoppers	800.252.8477
The Haven	817.341.1909
Weatherford Police Dept.	817.598.4310
Willow Park Police Dept.	817.441.9747



VICTIM ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

for

PARKER COUNTY VICTIMS

of

FAMILY AND DATING VIOLENCE

JOHN FORREST
PARKER COUNTY ATTORNEY
ASSAULT FAMILY VIOLENCE UNIT
Phone: (817)594-8409

WHAT IS FAMILY AND DATING VIOLENCE?

Section 71.004 of the Texas Family Code defines Family Violence as:

Any act by a member of a family or a 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.

Under Texas law, Family Violence also includes Dating Violence. A dating relationship includes those individuals who have or have had a continuing relationship of a romantic or intimate nature. Dating violence can take many forms, including mental/emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. It can occur in both casual dating situations and serious, long-term relationships.

NOTICE TO VICTIMS OF FAMILY & DATING VIOLENCE

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

You have the right to:

- Ask the local prosecutor to file a criminal complaint against the person committing family violence;
- Apply to a court for an order to protect you if a family or household member assaults you;
- Request that a magistrate's order for emergency protection be issued. 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.

WHAT IS A PROTECTIVE ORDER?

A protective order is a civil court order that is designed to stop violent and harassing behavior and to protect you and your family members from an abuser. For example, the court can enter an order directing the abuser (1) not to commit further acts of violence; (2) not to threaten, harass, or contact you; and (3) to leave your household.

A violation of protective order is a criminal offense punishable by fines up to \$4,000 and one year in jail.

You can apply for a protective order if your abuser is one of the following:

- A current or former spouse
- A sibling (brother or sister)
- A blood relative such as a parent
- A relative by marriage (in-law)
- A person with whom you have a child in common
- A current or former roommate
- A foster parent or child
- Any person you are dating or have dated

A person who has a divorce pending is eligible for a protective order, but it must be filed in the court in which the divorce is pending. You may also be able to get a protective order against someone who has sexually assaulted you even if they are not a family or household member.

SHOULD I GET A PROTECTIVE ORDER?

A protective order is a tool that can help to increase safety for many survivors of abuse, but it might not be appropriate in all situations. In order for a judge to be able to grant a protective order, you will need to show:

- that the person abusing you is or was a member of your family or household or someone you have or are dating;
- family violence in the form a physical assault or threat of physical assault has occurred;
- another act of family violence is likely to occur again in the future.

HOW DO I OBTAIN A FAMILY PROTECTIVE ORDER?

You can obtain a **Protective Order** by contacting the County Attorney's Office in Parker County. For the County Attorney's office to consider your application, the violence must have occurred within the last 30 days. If you want an **Emergency Protective Order**, let the arresting officer know so that one can be requested on your behalf. You cannot receive an Emergency Protective Order after the abuser posts bond.

WILL A FAMILY PROTECTIVE ORDER PREVENT FAMILY VIOLENCE?

A family protective order can deter violence and provide the police and courts additional authority to intervene in family violence cases and to punish those who commit family violence, but it is not a shield that stops the next violent act from occurring. Most violent relationships become more dangerous and violent over time; not less violent. If you feel you are in danger, please contact one of the resources listed in this brochure.

CRIME VICTIMS' COMPENSATION

Crime Victims' Compensation is administered by the Attorney General's Office, Austin, Texas and compensates residents of the United States who suffer personal injury or death as the result of a violent crime. It is available to pay the amount of reasonable and necessary expense incurred for:

- Medical counseling, prescriptions and rehabilitative services;
- Partial loss of earnings because of a disability resulting from personal injury;
- Child care for minor children to enable a victim or spouse of a deceased victim to continue employment;
- Certain funeral and burial expenses;
- Reasonable costs associated with crime scene cleanup;
- Reasonable replacement costs for clothing or bedding taken as evidence or made unusable because of the criminal investigation of a sexual assault.

In order to qualify for Crime Victims' Compensation, the victim must be the innocent victim of a violent crime who suffers personal injury. Further, the crime must be reported to law enforcement within a reasonable amount of time, and a claim for benefits filed within three years.

The Parker County Victim Assistance Coordinator will assist you in applying for benefits from Crime Victims' Compensation.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE SERVICES

The Victim Assistance Program exists to provide assistance to crime victims and their families.

Services provided include:

- Crisis Counseling
- Criminal Justice Support – criminal justice system information and referral, case status, arrest notification and court accompaniment
- Information and referrals to local social service providers
- Notification and assistance in filing for Crime Victims' Compensation

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE

- You are ridiculed, put down, made fun of or belittled.
- You are not free to come and go as you wish.
- You are verbally attacked or accused.
- Your possessions are damaged.
- You are spied on, followed or harassed.
- You are isolated from family and friends.
- Your finances are restricted.
- You are left in a dangerous place.
- You are pushed, shoved, slapped, kicked, strangled or threatened with a weapon.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP FAMILY VIOLENCE

- Call police immediately if you are aware of an assault in progress.
- Don't laugh at jokes that involve adults hitting each other; they're not funny anymore.
- Support your local women's shelter through contributing or volunteering.
- Tell your local, state and national elected officials that you support strong laws against family violence and want those laws enforced.

BILL OF RIGHTS VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES

As a victim of a violent crime, or as a close relative of a victim, you have certain rights in the Texas Criminal Justice System.

Among those rights are:

1. The right to protection from harm, rising from cooperation with peace officers or prosecutors.
2. The right to have your safety, and that of your family taken into consideration when bail is set.
3. The right to be informed about court proceedings, including whether they have been cancelled or rescheduled.
4. The right to information about procedures in criminal investigations.
5. The right to information and procedures in the criminal justice system, including plea-bargaining.
6. The right to tell a probation department about 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 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 Pardon and Paroles Division, the right to participate in the parole process by submitting a victim impact statement or other information, and the right to be notified of the inmates 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.