

Texas Crime Victim Legal Assistance Network

Image not found
Survivor Information

Connecting survivors of crime to legal and supportive service providers in Texas

www.texasvictimnetwork.org

Survivor Information

What is a crime victim/survivor?

A crime victim/survivor is any person who has suffered physical or emotional harm, property damage, or economic loss as a result of a crime.

What are the different types of crimes?

Crimes can be violent or non-violent. A violent crime is one in which a person uses or threatens to use violent force against another person. Broad examples of violent crime are murder, sexual assault, burglary, and assault. However, violent crime includes a variety of offenses including child abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, mugging, and stalking to name a few. A non-violent crime is any crime that does not involve the use of force or cause injury to another person. Broad examples of non-violent crimes are property crimes such as theft, arson, and burglary and fraud crimes such as identity theft and financial scams where in deception or false pretenses are used to steal the money or property of another.

Am I a victim if I did not report the crime?

Yes. If you did not report the crime, you are still a crime victim and may need support services to deal with the effects of the crime. Many victim services will be available to you regardless of whether or not you reported the crime to law enforcement. However, you may have access to additional support services if you report the crime to law enforcement.

Can I get legal help from the Network Partners if I did not report the crime?

Yes. Most Network Partners can still provide services even if the crime has never been reported. If you need legal help as a result of being the victim of a crime, you can benefit from the Network.

Do I have any rights as a crime victim?

Yes. There are rights protecting victims of crimes within the criminal justice system under both United States law and Texas law. Victim rights laws detail the rights victims have to be protected, informed about, and involved in of the progress and prosecution of their perpetrator.

What is crime victim compensation?

Victims of violent crimes are forced to deal with the emotional, physical, and financial effects of crime. Crime victims' compensation is a program that can help a victims and their family when they have no other way of paying for some of the financial cost of crime. To learn more about who qualifies for and what expenses can be covered by the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund, visit the Office of the Attorney General of Texas' website.

What is Texas VINE?

The Texas Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) is a free service that provides crime victims with notice and updates about court events and jail status changes of offenders.

Texas VINE

Are there any self-help legal resources available for Texans?

Yes, TexasLawHelp is a website that provides free information and forms on a variety of legal topics.

TexasLawHelp

Printed:December 13, 2018

<http://www.texasvictimnetwork.org/node/409/survivor-information>

©Texas Crime Victim Legal Assistance Network