

STATE RESOURCES AND REFERRAL CONTACTS

Crime Victims' Compensation Division
Office of the Attorney General
(800) 983-9933 www.texasattorneygeneral.gov

Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Crime Victim Services Division and
Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse
(Offender / Parole Information)
(800) 848-4284 www.tdcj.state.tx.us

Accident Reports
Contact the policing agency present
at the scene or DPS Uniform Crime Reporting
(512) 424-7102 www.txdps.state.tx.us/ucr

Lawyer Referral Service
State Bar of Texas
(800) 252-9690 www.texasbar.com

Legal Assistance
Texas Advocacy Project
(800) 777-3247 www.texasadvocacyproject.org

Probation Information Contact your county's
Community Supervision and Corrections Department
Texas Juvenile Justice Department
(512) 424-6700 www.tjjd.texas.org

Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
Abuse Hotline Child Endangerment
(800) 252-5400 www.dfps.state.tx.us/child_protection

Texas Council on Family Violence, Inc.
(800) 525-1978 www.tcfv.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline
(800) 799-7233 www.ndvh.org

Texas Crime Stoppers
Office of the Governor
(800) 252-8477 gov.texas.gov/cjd

Victim Services
Texas Department of Public Safety
(512) 424-5163 www.txdps.state.tx.us

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
Texas State Office
(800) 777-6233 www.madd.org

"For more than 20 years, PAVC has reached out to victims of violence, providing support and information when it is most needed. The dedicated staff and volunteers of PAVC are an inspiration to all of us. The progress that is being made in strengthening the voice of the victims of crime would not be possible without their help. We are pleased to count PAVC as a partner in ensuring that victims are treated with dignity and compassion."

*Honorable Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas*

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"Our legal system protects the rights of criminals. It must also protect the rights of crime victims. I commend PAVC for raising awareness of crime victims' rights and for helping the state fulfill its obligation to protect the innocent."

*Honorable George W. Bush
Governor of Texas*

CONTACT INFORMATION



MAIL

People Against Violent Crime
P.O. Box 92621
Austin, Texas 78709

INTERNET

www.peopleagainstviolentcrime.org

E-mail

pavc@peopleagainstviolentcrime.org

CONTRIBUTIONS

Please contact PAVC for further information if you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution (a non-profit, non-partisan, victim service organization).

Revised January 2024

People Against VIOLENT CRIME

working with crime victims
to restore the balance of justice



A Non-Profit, Non-Partisan,
Victim Service Organization
Established in 1982

ABOUT US

In 1982, the statewide organization of People Against Violent Crime (PAVC) was formed in memory of all who suffered as victims of violent crimes.

Every 3 ½ minutes, a violent crime occurs in Texas. In each instance, at least one person is a victim that needs assistance and guidance through the process of victimization and the criminal justice system.

PAVC's mission is to ensure that the rights of crime victims are upheld according to the Texas Crime Victims' Bill of Rights and to coordinate with victim service providers, law enforcement agencies and criminal justice agencies to help make certain that adequate resources are available to all victims of crime.

PAVC has overcome many obstacles concerning the rights for victims of crime. We shall remain united in our efforts to be assured crime victims will be treated fairly and with dignity and respect.

FOUNDER'S STATEMENT

People Against Violent Crime was founded by Nell Myers whose daughter, Cydney Myers, was brutally murdered in 1979. Upon learning of the injustices in the criminal justice system, Nell committed herself to making a difference in the lives of crime victims across the state. She established PAVC in Austin, Texas with 36 charter members.

Nell Myers passed away on September 26, 2000. Nell's passing has not changed the fundamentals of PAVC, nor has it changed the organization's purpose. She will remain our guiding light in search of hope and justice for all victims and their families.

*"Don't follow the path.
Go where there is no
path and begin the trail.
When you start a new
trail equipped with
courage, strength and
conviction, the only
thing that can stop you
is you!"*

*Ruby Bridges,
Civil Rights Pioneer*



Nell Myers, Founder

PAVC'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Made victims' roles more prominent in the criminal justice system and continually supports legislation to strengthen crime victims' rights
 - Supported the establishment of the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund and its solvency
 - Provided the initial draft for the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights passed by the Texas Legislature
 - Helped establish the Texas Missing Persons' Clearinghouse
 - Established the Victim Services Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice
 - Established the Tree of Angels®, a registered trademark, to honor surviving victims of violent crime and victims' families during the holiday season

HOW CAN PAVC HELP YOU?

PAVC advocates can help you by providing the following services for all victims of crime:

- Crisis intervention counseling;
- Follow-up contact;
- Information and referral;
- Assistance filing compensation claims;
- Criminal justice support and advocacy;
- Accompaniment (e.g., court, hospital, law enforcement)
- Personal advocacy
- Assistance filing victim impact statements;
- Provide technical assistance to support and expand statewide awareness and outreach;
- Providing post-conviction information; and
- Assist victims in ensuring they are well informed about victim's rights.

TEXAS CRIME VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

- To be **protected** from harm or threats;
- To be informed about the **defendant's right to bail** and to have your safety considered in the setting of bail;
- To be informed about **court proceedings**, if you so request;

- To be informed about stages in the criminal justice system in general, including criminal investigations, trials, plea bargaining, appeals and parole;

- To provide information to the probation department concerning the **impact of the crime** for inclusion in the presentence investigation report to the judge, and to complete a **Victim Impact Statement**;
- To receive information regarding **compensation to crime victims** under the Crime Victims' compensation Act, payment for a **medical examination** for a victim of sexual assault, and referral to available social service agencies that may offer **additional assistance**;
- To be notified, if you so request, of any **parole proceedings** regarding the defendant, and the right to participate in those proceedings;
- To have a **waiting area** in the courthouse separate from the defendant and his or her family and witnesses, or if a separate area is not possible, to have safeguards to insure minimal contact;
- To prompt **return of property** held by law enforcement or the attorney for the state after the property is no longer needed as evidence;
- To have the attorney for the state **notify your employer** if you must be absent from work in order to be in court or to otherwise cooperate in the case;
- To counseling and testing for **AIDS and HIV-related infections**, if the crime was sexual in nature;
- To be **present** at all public proceedings subject to the approval of the judge;
- To **privacy** — as far as is reasonably practical, the address of the victim may not be part of the court file except as necessary to identify the place of the crime. The phone number of the victim may not be a part of the court file;
- To request **victim-offender mediation** coordinated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division;
- To be informed of the **uses of the Victim Impact Statement** to complete the statement, and to have the statement considered by the prosecutor, the court, and the prison system: and
 - If you are a victim of sexual assault, to have a properly trained **advocate present during a forensic medical examination** if an advocate is available and if the advocate's presence would not impede treatment of the victim's medical condition.

