

(iv) The victim must be an innocent victim of a violent crime who suffers personal injury. *Crime Victims' Compensation is "the payer of last resort" after primary sources of payment such as health insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, auto insurance or Texas Workers' Compensation.*

The Victim Assistance Unit of the Fort Worth Police Department can assist you in applying for benefits from Crime Victims' Compensation. Please call our office at 817-392-4390, or the Attorney General's Office at 800-983-9933 for assistance.

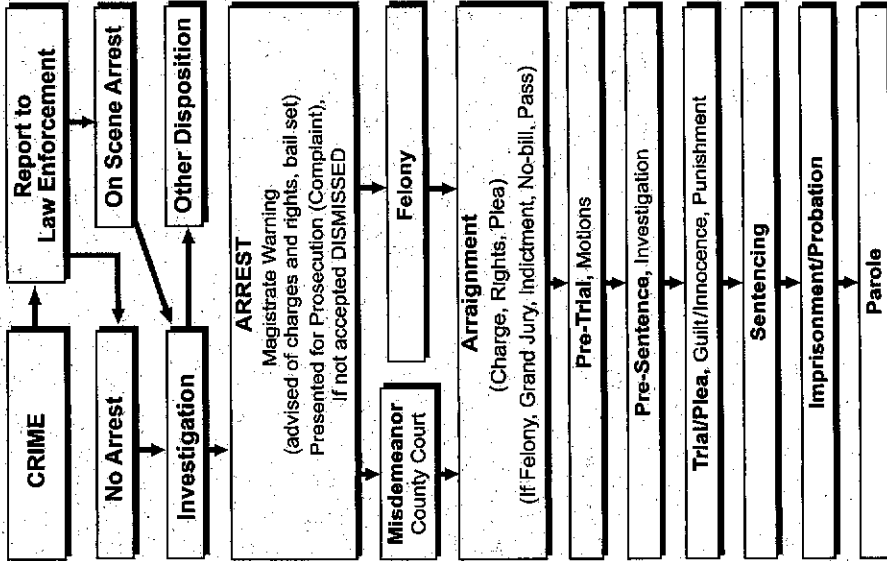
#### Medical Treatment

All emergencies..... Dial 911  
 Cook Children's Hospital..... 817-885-4000  
 Harris Methodist Hospital..... 817-882-3333  
 John Peter Smith Hospital..... 817-921-3431

#### Resource List

All Curch Home ..... 817-335-4673  
 Alliance For Children..... 817-335-7172  
 Catholic Charities..... 817-534-0814  
 Child Protective Services..... 1-800-252-5400  
 Lawyer Referral Services..... 817-336-4101  
 Legal Aide of Northwest Texas..... 817-336-3943  
 Mental Health/Mental Retardation..... 817-335-3022  
 Parenting Center..... 817-332-6348  
 SafeHaven of Tarrant County  
 Counseling Center ..... 817-536-5496  
 Toll Free Hotline..... 1-877-717-7233  
 Tarrant County District Attorney  
 Family Violence..... 817-884-3535  
 Protective Orders..... 817-884-1623  
 Victim Assistance..... 817-884-2740  
 United Way's First Call for Help..... 817-258-8100  
 Women's Center of Tarrant County  
 Rape Crisis..... 817-927-2737  
 Victim Services..... 817-927-4039

### INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OR "WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?"



The Victim Assistance Unit of the Fort Worth Police Department is available to assist you in obtaining case status information and information about victim's rights. Please do not hesitate to call us if we can be of further assistance. We can be reached at:

Fort Worth Police Department  
 Victim Assistance Unit  
 350 W. Belknap St., 3rd floor • Fort Worth, TX 76102  
 817-392-4390 • 817-392-4396 (fax)

You may also contact the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office once a case has been filed at:

Tarrant County District Attorney's Office  
 Victim Assistance  
 401 W. Belknap St., 5th floor  
 Fort Worth, TX 76196-0201  
 817-884-2740

# Fort Worth Police Department



## VICTIM ASSISTANCE

### An Assistance Program For Victims and Family Survivors of Violent Crimes

Fort Worth Police Department  
 Victim Assistance Program  
 350 W. Belknap St. • Fort Worth, Texas 76102  
 817-392-4390  
 For Emergency Help Dial 911

## Rights of Crime Victims

As defined in Article 56, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, 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) close relative (spouse, parent, brother, sister, or adult child) of a deceased victim; or (3) is the guardian of a victim. As a victim of violent crime, you are entitled to the following rights:

1. The right to receive from law enforcement agencies 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. If you so request, the right to be informed of relevant court proceedings and to be informed if those court proceedings have been canceled or rescheduled prior to the event;
4. If you so request, the right 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 provide information to a probation department conducting a pre-sentence investigation on the impact of the crime;
6. The right to receive information about the Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund that provides financial assistance to victims of violent crimes and payment for a medical examination for a victim of sexual assault, and, on request, referral to available social service agencies that may offer additional assistance;
7. The right to be informed, upon request, of parole procedures, to participate in the parole process, to be notified, if requested, of parole proceedings concerning the defendant in the victim's case, to provide to the Board of Pardons and Paroles for inclusion in the defendant's file information to be considered

by the board prior to the parole of any defendant convicted of any crime subject to this Act, and if requested, to be notified of the defendant's release;

8. The right to a separate and secure waiting area before and during court proceedings;
9. The right to prompt return of any property that is no longer required as evidence;
10. 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;

11. The right to counseling, on request, regarding AIDS, and HIV infection and testing for AIDS and HFV related infections, if the offense is a sexual offense;

12. The right to request victim-offender mediation coordinated by the Victim Services Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; and
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 at sentencing and by the parole board prior to taking any parole action;

- 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.

*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."*

## Victim Assistance Services

The Victim Assistance Unit of the Fort Worth Police Department was formed to help victims and their families deal with the trauma of being a victim of crime. Our services include:

- Crisis counseling for victims and their families.
- Information and referrals to local community resources and social services.
- Explanation of the Criminal Justice System.

- Case status information and referral to assigned detective.
- Assistance with Crime Victims' Compensation applications.

## Crime Victims' Compensation

Crime Victims' Compensation is a division of the Texas Attorney General's Office created to help victims of violent crime with certain expenses.

### Available Benefits

Crime Victims' Compensation may be available to pay the amount of expense reasonably and necessarily incurred for:

- (i) Medical, prescription and rehabilitative services;
- (ii) Loss of earnings or support;
- (iii) Care of a child or dependent;
- (iv) Funeral and burial expenses;
- (v) Crime scene clean up;
- (vi) Mental health counseling for victims and family members;
- (vii) Replacement costs for clothing, bedding or property seized as evidence or rendered unusable as the result of the investigation;
- (viii) Lost wages and travel expenses incurred during the justice process and for seeking medical treatment related to the crime;
- (ix) Relocation expenses for victims of family violence or victims of sexual assault that occur in the victim's residence.

*Reimbursement for property damage or theft is not an eligible expense.*

### Eligibility

- (i) The crime must have been reported to law enforcement within a reasonable amount of time.
- (ii) Claim must have been filed within three years from the date of the crime, unless child victim.
- (iii) The claimant or victim must cooperate with law enforcement and prosecution efforts.

