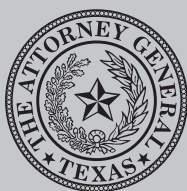




FAMILY VIOLENCE





FAMILY VIOLENCE

*is a **pattern** of intentional intimidation that is **reinforced** by violence, or threat of violence, for the purpose of gaining or maintaining power and **control** over one's partner.*

A PERSONAL SAFETY PLAN

NO ONE DESERVES TO BE HIT, THREATENED, OR DEMEANED. IF YOU ARE BEING HURT BY SOMEONE YOU LOVE, CONSIDER STEPS THAT COULD INCREASE SAFETY FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN. HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS THAT HAVE HELPED OTHER PEOPLE, BUT MORE SAFETY PLANNING IDEAS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.TCFV.ORG/RESOURCE-CENTER/SURVIVORS.

DURING AN INCIDENT...

- If there is an argument, try to be in a place that has an exit. Avoid the bathroom, kitchen or any room that may contain weapons.
- Use your instincts and judgment. In some dangerous situations, it may be possible to appease the abuser to calm them down.
- Develop an age-appropriate safety plan with your children.
- Devise a code word to use with your children, family, friends and neighbors when you need the police.

WHEN YOU ARE PREPARING TO LEAVE

- Open a checking account or savings account in your own name.
- Leave money, an extra set of keys, copies of important documents, and extra clothes and medicines in a safe place or with someone you trust.

A PERSONAL SAFETY PLAN

- Find a safe place where you and your children can go or a person who can lend you money.
- An old cell phone that still powers on can be used to dial 911. Local law enforcement often has free 911 phones available. When you call, always disclose your address first so dispatchers can locate you.
- If you have pets, make arrangements for them to be cared for in a safe place, including some shelters.

FEELING SAFE ONLINE AND WITH TECHNOLOGY

- Create a new email account.
- Change passwords and PIN numbers
- Use privacy settings
- Visit this site for more info:
http://nnedv.org/downloads/SafetyNet/NNEDV_TechSafetyPlan_CanadaEngFrench_OntQue08.pdf

CONSIDER A PROTECTIVE ORDER

- If you or your children have been threatened or assaulted, you can request a protective order from your local district or county attorney.
- Always keep your protective order with you.
- Call the police if your abuser violates the protective order.

FEELING SAFE IN YOUR OWN HOME

- If you stay in your home, lock your windows and change the locks on your doors.
- Inform your child's school, day-care, etc., about who has permission to pick up your child.

A PERSONAL SAFETY PLAN

- Inform your neighbors and the landlord that your partner no longer lives with you and that they should call the police if they see him/her near your home.
- If you move, don't call the abuser from your home; it could compromise the safety of your address. Don't tell the abuser where you live. If you wish to keep your address confidential, consider applying for the Address Confidentiality Program.

FEELING SAFE ON THE JOB AND IN PUBLIC PLACES

- Decide whom you will inform at work of your situation. Tell the building security officers, and if possible, provide them with a picture of your batterer.
- When at work, if possible, have someone screen your telephone calls.
- Have someone escort you to and from your car, bus or train.
- Alternate your daily routine. Change frequently visited public places like: gyms, banks, grocery stores, etc.

THINGS TO TAKE WITH YOU

- Important documents like leases, protective orders, birth certificates and social security cards.
- Money, credit cards, checking and savings account info, driver's licenses, and vehicle titles
- Other important items like medications, pictures, clothing, valuable jewelry, etc.

STATEWIDE RESOURCES

CRIME VICTIMS' COMPENSATION

Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) may be able to help victims and their families with expenses related to the crime. The CVC program provides financial assistance for crime-related expenses that cannot be reimbursed by insurance or other sources. Claims may be approved for benefits up to a total of \$50,000.

HOW IT WORKS

If you are a victim of violent crime in Texas, report the crime to the local law enforcement agency and ask for information about the CVC program. Most law enforcement departments and local family and sexual violence organizations will have a crime victim liaison who can explain the program, provide you with an application and help you fill it out. A decision about whether the victim or claimant is eligible is usually made within 45 days after a completed application is submitted.

What resources under CVC are available for victims of family violence?

- loss of wages due to medical treatment or participation in, or attendance at, the investigation, prosecutorial and judicial processes
- care of a child or a dependent
- loss of support
- loss of wages and travel to seek medical treatment
- one-time relocation expenses
- medical, hospital, physical therapy or nursing care
- psychiatric care or counseling

STATEWIDE RESOURCES

ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

The Texas Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) helps victims of family violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking keep their actual address confidential by providing a substitute post office box address and free mail forwarding service for participants. ACP is a safety tool and is intended as one step in a safety plan.

HOW DOES IT WORK

Under the program, a designated substitute post office box address is provided to a participant to use in place of an actual residential, business, or school address and acts as an agent to receive service of process and mail on behalf of the participant. This substitute address can be used as the participant's main address for driver's license, voter, and school registration as well as with all state and local entities.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are encouraged to meet with a local domestic violence shelter, sexual assault center, law enforcement or prosecution staff member to discuss a safety plan and to enroll in the program. To get contact information for local family violence shelters, please access the Texas Council on Family Violence website at www.tcfv.org or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at **1-800-799-SAFE**.

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CRIME VICTIMS' COMPENSATION

P.O. Box 12198, Austin, TX 78711-2198

www.texasattorneygeneral.gov

Statewide Telephone (800) 983-9933

Austin (512) 936-1200

Fax (512) 936-1800

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

Telephone 24/7 (800) 799-SAFE (7233)

Online Chat www.thehotline.org

TEXAS COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE (Statewide Family Violence Coalition)

Telephone (800) 525-1978

Web Address www.tcfv.org

TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT (Free Legal Services)

Telephone (800) 374-HOPE (4673)

Web Address texasadvocacyproject.org

TEXAS VINE

Telephone 1-877-TX4-VINE
1-877-894-8463

Web Address www.vinelink.com