

Your **RIGHTS** as a Survivor of Family Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking, Harassment or Terroristic Threat



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

*If you feel unsafe, getting support can help you understand your options and feel safer. While ending an abusive relationship or seeking help, threats or violence can increase. Some warning signs of increased risk may include jealousy, controlling finances or your movements, isolating you from friends or family, verbal abuse, threats to harm or kill you, and physical abuse including strangulation. **If you are in immediate danger, call 911 right away.***

Scan the QR code to learn more about your rights and resources.



You are not alone. There are resources and support to help you.

24/7 Resources and Support

These confidential 24/7 hotlines can help with safety planning, shelter and support.

National Domestic Violence Hotline

The National Domestic Violence Hotline can connect you with an advocate who can provide safety plans, discuss options, and offer resources in your area.

- Call: **800-799-SAFE** (7233)
- TTY: **800-787-3224**
- Chat online: thehotline.org
- Text: **"START" to 88788**

National Sexual Assault Hotline – RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network)

If you have been sexually assaulted, consider contacting the RAINN Hotline to connect with a trained staff member from a local sexual assault service provider in your area.

- Call: **800-656-HOPE** (4673)
- Chat online: hotline.rainn.org
- Text: **"HOPE" to 64673**

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Anyone can call, text or chat with the **988 Lifeline** to get connected to trained counselors at over 200 local crisis centers.

- Chat online: 988lifeline.org/chat
- Call or text: **988**

You Have Rights and Options

If you, your child or any other household member has been injured, or if you feel you are going to be in danger when the officer leaves or at a later time, you have the right to ask your local law enforcement agency to file a criminal complaint against the person committing family violence. You can also apply for a court order to protect you.

If the offender is arrested, you have the right to provide information to your local prosecutor that may help the judge make decisions about bail.

To learn more about how reports and complaints are filed, visit the **Texas Family Violence Program Resources** page at hhs.texas.gov/fvp-resources.

If you need help with filing a report or criminal complaint, protective orders, lease termination or anything else, call the **Texas Advocacy Project** for free and confidential assistance at **800-374-HOPE (4673)** or visit texasadvocacyproject.org.

The **Texas Department of Public Safety** also has victim services professionals available to help you navigate the criminal justice process.

To locate a victim services professional in your area:

- Visit the **Victim Services Professionals Regional Directory** at dps.texas.gov/section/victim-employment-support-services-vess/regional-victim-services-professionals.
- Call **512-424-2211**.
- Visit dps.texas.gov/section/victim-employment-support-services-vess/victim-support-services.

It's your right to choose which of these options are best for you.

Protective Orders

A protective order is a legal document that requires someone to stay away from you and gives you legal protection. In some cases, it can even remove someone from your shared home. This option is available if you have experienced family violence, dating violence, sexual assault, abuse, stalking, harassment or human trafficking.

In Texas there are three different types of protective orders:

- Magistrate's Order of Emergency Protection
- Final Protective Order
- Temporary Ex Parte Protective Order

To learn more about protective orders, visit the **Texas Family Violence Program Resources** page at hhs.texas.gov/fvp-resources.

Your local county or district attorney or Texas Advocacy Project can often help you get a protective order for free. To learn more, visit texaslawhelp.org/toolkit/i-need-protective-order.

Lease Termination

You may be able to legally end your lease without penalty. You will need to have at least one of the following documents:

- A temporary injunction, issued as part of a divorce proceeding.
- Magistrate's Order of Emergency Protection, Final Protective Order or Temporary Ex Parte Protective Order.
- A document regarding family violence against the tenant or occupant from at least one of the following:
 - » A licensed health care services provider who examined you.
 - » A licensed mental health services provider who examined or evaluated you.
 - » An advocate at a family violence center who helped you.

To learn more, visit texaslawhelp.org/article/early-lease-termination-for-victims-of-family-violence.

For more information and certification forms, visit tcfv.org/find-help/survivor-resources and click on the Lease Termination tab under Moving Forward.

It's a criminal offense for any person, including a member of the family or former member of the family, to cause physical injury or harm to a victim or to engage in conduct constituting stalking, harassment or terroristic threat.