VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

Your Voice: Victim Impact Statement

The Victim Impact Statement (VIS) form is a detailed account of the emotional/psychological, physical, and financial impact of the crime on the victim and family members. The VIS form is also designed to collect information from victims who wish to be notified by criminal justice professionals throughout the process. The VIS form is considered by prosecutors, judges, and the Board of Pardons and Paroles when making important decisions involving the case.

Prosecutors must consider the VIS form before entering into a plea agreement. The prosecutor may also use the VIS form to determine how much restitution to request as part of a sentence. Prior to the imposition of a sentence or prior to accepting a plea agreement, the judge must inquire as to whether a VIS has been returned, and if one has been returned it must be considered before imposing a sentence.

If the defendant is sentenced to community supervision (probation), the community supervision officer will have access to the VIS form to use for notification purposes. If the defendant is sentenced to the adult prison system, the court is required to attach the VIS form to the inmate's commitment papers. The VIS form will be processed to add the adult victim to the confidential IVSS database, and included in the inmate's parole review file.

The VIS form is considered by the Board of Pardons and Paroles prior to voting on a case during the parole review process.

If you wish to complete a VIS form, you may download the form from the Victim Services Division website (https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/publications/victim_impact_statement.html#vis). If you do not have access to the Internet, you may obtain a VIS form from the TDCJ Victim Services Division, county or district attorney's office, and victim service providers throughout the state.

Extension of Protective Order

If an inmate is the subject of a protective order and is confined or imprisoned on the date the protective order expires, or if the protective order is set to expire no later than the first anniversary of the date the person is released from confinement or imprisonment, Texas statute mandates that the protective order be extended. For more information or assistance, please contact the Texas Advocacy Project at (800) 374-HOPE or the Texas Legal Services Center at (844) 303-SAFE.

Restitution

Some offenders are ordered to pay financial restitution to compensate victims for losses incurred as a result of the crime. Restitution can be ordered only by the sentencing judge and must be recorded on the judgment or order revoking probation. For more information about restitution, contact the TDCJ Business and Finance Division at (866) 464-4137.

Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue

The TDCJ Victim Services Division Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue (VOMD) program provides an opportunity for victims or surviving family members of violent crime to request an in-person meeting with the TDCJ offender responsible for their victimization.

The VOMD process can be a very sensitive and highly emotional process. The mediator assigned to the case will work closely with the crime victim during the preparation phase, during the mediation, and after the mediation has occurred. Crime victims have expressed a sense of taking back control once they meet directly with the offender to describe the impact of their victimization and to receive answers to questions regarding the offense.

For more information, contact the TDCJ Victim Services Division.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

8712 Shoal Creek Blvd.
Suite 265
Austin, Texas 78757-6899

Toll-Free Hotline:
800-848-4284

E-mail:
victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov

Website:
www.tdcj.texas.gov

Integrated Victim Services System (IVSS) Victim Portal:
https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov

The mission of the Victim Services Division is to provide a central mechanism for crime victims to participate in the Criminal Justice System.

Rev. 02/2026

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

Your **RIGHTS**

Your **VOICE**

Your **PARTICIPATION**

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division

The Victim Services Division provides assistance to crime victims, witnesses who testified against the defendant at trial, and concerned citizens when the offender is incarcerated in Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Correctional Institutions Division (adult prison system) or on parole/mandatory supervision. Available services include:

- Notifications and assistance to help determine offender status;
- Assistance with processing Victim Impact Statement forms, protest materials, and other information submitted by victims, criminal justice professionals, and concerned citizens;
- Referral for restitution inquiries;
- Information about and assistance during parole review process and parole revocation hearings;
- Explanation of parole and mandatory supervision procedures;
- Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue; and
- Victim witness preparation and accompaniment when viewing executions.

In addition, the TDCJ Victim Services Division Crime Victim Clearinghouse provides services to victims, criminal justice and victim service professionals, and the public, including training oppportunities, such as workshops, webinars, and the Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online and annual Academy; technical assistance, resources, and publications; information and referral services.

Victims are welcome to visit our office to discuss additional concerns.

To make an appointment call the hotline or email us at: victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov

Be Informed. Be Involved.

The TDCJ Victim Services Division manages the confidential Integrated Victim Services System (IVSS) portal to keep victims and registrants informed of an offender's status after conviction and sentencing to the adult prison system.

Registering for Notifications and Services Online:

To register for notifications regarding an inmate's status, access the online IVSS portal:

https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov

Registration options include:

- Receiving notifications by email, text, letter, or phone; and
- Registering to speak with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles during the parole review process.

To inquire about an offender's status, learn about services provided by the TDCJ Victim Services Division, and obtain additional information and referrals, call our toll-free hotline:

(800) 848-4284

If you have not had an opportunity to discuss these options with a TDCJ Victim Services Division representative and are interested in registering for notifications or learning more about our services, please contact the TDCJ Victim Services Division for assistance. Your contact with us and all of your information will remain confidential.

The confidential IVSS portal provides notifications to registered victims when the offender:

- enters the parole review process;
- completes the parole review process and a tentative favorable vote for release to parole or mandatory supervision is received, or release is denied;
- is issued a release certificate for parole or mandatory supervision;
- is revoked while on parole or mandatory supervision by the Board of Pardons and Paroles;
- is released to or received from a bench warrant;
- is discharged at time of release;
- escapes and is recaptured;
- has warrant actions while under supervision; or
- dies while incarcerated or while under supervision.

Participation in Parole Review

Submitting materials

Statutory victims have the right to submit materials to the Board of Pardons and Paroles to consider during an offender's parole review. Crime victims, witnesses who testified against the defendant, and concerned citizens may send protest materials to the TDCJ Victim Services Division at any time to be included in an offender's parole review file. Crime victims often describe how the crime affected them and continues to impact them and their families. Any new information, such as pictures and/or pertinent newspaper articles, may be included. The inmate's parole review file will be considered by the Board of Pardons and Paroles; anything submitted will remain in the file and cannot be returned.

Meeting with the Board

Statutory victims also have the right to meet with the Board of Pardons and Paroles during the inmate's parole review process. To request a meeting with the Board of Pardons and Paroles, please contact the TDCJ Victim Services Division.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION THROUGH THE IVSS PORTAL OR BY CONTACTING OUR OFFICE.

Important Notice

On September 1, 2025, many Texas counties transferred their victim notifications to the Integrated Victim Services System (IVSS) - Counties. Many people who were previously registered with VINE were imported to IVSS-Counties. Registrants can update and maintain their contact information or request registration for additional offenders in a participating Texas county jail by contacting:

(866) 268-8959

www.ivss-counties.tdcj.texas.gov

If an offender in a participating Texas county jail is convicted and sentenced to TDCJ, the registrants will continue to be notified by TDCJ Victim Services Division without needing to re-register. To update your contact information on registration for an offender sentenced to TDCJ and be involved in the parole process, the victim must do so with the TDCJ Victim Services Division. Contact us at:

(800) 848-4284

victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov

https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov

All correspondence and phone calls, including the VIS form, are confidential.