Meeting with the Board of Pardons and Paroles – Government Code § 508.153 & § 508.117

The victim, legal guardian of the victim, or close relative of a deceased victim, as defined by Government Code § 508.153(e)(1), has the right to provide a written statement and to appear in person before a voting member of the Board of Pardons and Paroles to present a statement of the person's views about the offense, the inmate, and the effect of the offense on the victim when the board is considering the inmate for release on parole or mandatory supervision for the current sentence being served for the offense (§ 508.153(a)(1)-(2)).

Representatives of the victim, victim's guardian, and victim's close relative, can provide a written statement to voting members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles (§ 508.153(a)(1)).

In the event that the close relative of a deceased victim is deceased or incapacitated due to physical or mental illness or infirmity, the nearest relative of the deceased victim by consanguinity (relationship by descent from a common ancestor; kinship) may have the right to provide a written statement and to appear in person before a voting member of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (§ 508.117 (g)(1)(D); CCP art 56A.0531).

Government Code § 508.153(e)(1)

In this section, "Close relative of a deceased victim" means a person who, regardless of whether the victim's death was related to the offense committed, was (A) the spouse of the victim at the time of the victim's death; (B) a parent of the deceased victim; (C) an adult sibling or child of the deceased victim; or the nearest relative of the deceased victim by consanguinity.

CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

Avoiding Victim of Stalking Offense – Government Code § 508.190

A parole panel is required to impose a condition upon release for an inmate serving a sentence for stalking to not communicate directly or indirectly with the victim, go to or near the victim's residence, place of employment, or business, or go to or near the school, day-care facility, or similar facility where a dependent child of the victim is in attendance.

No Contact with a Victim – Government Code § 508.191

If a parole panel releases an inmate on parole or to mandatory supervision, the panel is required to impose a condition that the offender not intentionally or knowingly communicate directly or indirectly with a victim of the offense or intentionally or knowingly go near a residence, school, place of employment, or business of the victim.

Protective Order Extensions – Texas Family Code § 85.025(c)

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 before the first anniversary of the date the offender is released from confinement or imprisonment, Texas statute mandates that the protective order be extended. If the offender was sentenced to confinement or imprisonment for more than five years, the protective order will be extended for one year from the offender's date of release. If the offender was sentenced to confinement or imprisonment for five years or less, the protective order will be extended for two years from the offender's date of release.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

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800-848-4284

E-mail:
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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. 2/2026

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

Do you know your ADDITIONAL RIGHTS as a Crime Victim?

VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION

CRIME VICTIMS' ADDITIONAL RIGHTS

Crime victims have rights in addition to those found in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP) arts. 56A.051 and 56A.052. The Crime Victims' Rights found in CCP arts. 56A.051, 56A.052, and 56A.0521 are listed in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Victim Services Division's Crime Victims' Rights brochure, on the TDCJ website, and in the Victim Impact Statement (VIS) form.

The additional rights listed in this brochure are relevant when the offender is either confined, incarcerated, on community supervision (probation), in the parole review process, or on parole or mandatory supervision. These additional rights have been summarized for your convenience. Please refer to the specific legislation noted for more detailed information.

To exercise your rights as a victim of crime it is necessary to contact your local law enforcement agency, district or county attorney's office, the probation office, the adult prison system, or the parole office to speak with a crime victim service provider. Each agency has staff available to assist you and discuss services and rights available upon request.

If you have any questions regarding these rights and how to exercise them, please contact the TDCJ Victim Services Division at 800-848-4284 or victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov.

NOTIFICATION OF ESCAPE, RELEASE, OR TRANSFER

Notification by Certain Entities of Release or Escape – CCP art. 56A, Subchapter K

A victim of the offense or a witness who testified against a defendant at the trial for the offense has the right to be notified when the defendant completes the sentence and is released, if the defendant escapes from a correctional facility, or when a defendant who is on parole/mandatory supervision or is supervised by a community supervision and corrections department (CSCD, i.e., probation) and is subject to electronic monitoring ceases to be electronically monitored (arts. 56A.503-.504).

A reasonable attempt must be made by the TDCJ, sheriff, or CSCD to provide notice to the victim or witness no later than the 30th day before the date the defendant is released or ceases to be electronically monitored, and immediately if the defendant escapes from a correctional facility (art. 56A.507).

It is the responsibility of the victim or witness desiring notification to provide the TDCJ, sheriff, or the CSCD with contact information and any change of address, e-mail address, or telephone number. The information obtained and maintained by the TDCJ, sheriff, or CSCD is privileged and confidential (art. 56A.506).

Notification of Escape or Transfer – CCP art. 56A, Subchapter L

If requested by the victim of the offense, the victim's guardian, or the deceased victim's close relative, the TDCJ is required to immediately notify the individual if the defendant convicted of a felony, other than a state jail felony, escapes from a facility operated by the TDCJ, if the defendant is transferred from the custody of a TDCJ facility to the custody of a peace officer under a writ of attachment or a bench warrant, and on return of the defendant to TDCJ custody (art. 56A.552).

It is the responsibility of the victim, witness, victim's guardian, or the deceased victim's close relative to notify the TDCJ of their desire for notification and any change of address or telephone number (art. 56A.554).

PROHIBITED AND IMPROPER CONTACT

Prohibiting Contact with Victim – CCP art. 42.24

If a defendant's sentence includes a term of confinement or imprisonment, the convicting court may, as part of the sentence, prohibit the defendant from contacting the victim of the offense or a member of the victim's family during the term of the defendant's confinement or imprisonment.

Forfeiture for Contacting Victims – Government Code § 498.0042

The TDCJ is required to adopt policies that prohibit an inmate in a correctional facility from contacting by letter, telephone, or any other means, either directly or indirectly, a victim of the offense for which the offender is serving a sentence, if the victim was younger than 17 years old at the time of the offense, or a member of the victim's family.

The parent or legal guardian of a victim under the age of 17 at the time of the offense; or a member of the victim's family, other than the inmate; or the victim, if the victim is 17 years of age or older at the time of giving consent, can provide the TDCJ with a written consent to contact with the inmate.

The inmate cannot make contact prior to receiving a copy of the consent that was provided to the TDCJ. If the inmate violates the TDCJ policy or an order under CCP art. 42.24, the TDCJ shall forfeit all or any part of the inmate's accrued good conduct time.

Improper Contact with Victim – Penal Code § 38.111

A person commits an offense if the person, while confined in a correctional facility after being charged with or convicted of an offense under Section 42.072 or listed in the CCP art. 62.001(5), contacts by letter, telephone, or any other means, either directly or through a third party, a victim of the offense or a member of the victim's family.

The victim, if the victim was 17 years of age or older at the time of the offense; the parent or legal guardian of the victim, if the victim was younger than 17 years of age at the time of the offense; a member of the victim's family who is 17 years of age or older; or the victim, if the victim is 17 years of age or older at the time of giving the consent can provide the director of the correctional facility with a written and dated consent to the contact.

The person confined cannot provide the consent and has to be provided with a copy of the consent prior to the contact. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor unless the person is confined in a correctional facility after being convicted of a felony listed in the CCP art. 62.001(5), in which event the offense is a third degree felony.

PAROLE

Victim Notification – Government Code § 508.117

Using the name and address provided on the Victim Impact Statement (VIS) (CCP art. 56A.151), the TDCJ is required to make a reasonable effort to notify the victim, legal guardian of the victim, or close relative of a deceased victim (as defined by Government Code § 508.117(g)) before a parole panel considers for release on parole an inmate who is serving a sentence. If the victim, guardian of the victim, or close relative of a deceased victim did not provide a VIS, they may provide a written request for notifications.

Victim Notification Government Code § 508.1471

In the event that an inmate is sentenced to prison while confined in a county jail and is eligible for immediate release to mandatory supervision, before release from county jail to mandatory supervision, the TDCJ shall provide notice to a victim, guardian of the victim, or close relative of a deceased victim that the inmate is eligible for release to mandatory supervision. Notice must be sent to the address provided in the VIS. The victim, guardian, or close relative may submit (no later than the 14th day after the date of the notice) a written statement to the parole panel considering the inmate's release regarding the offense, the inmate, and the effect of the offense on the victim, guardian of the victim, or close relative of the deceased victim.