

VSRT

Victim Services Response Team

VSRT MISSION STATEMENT

The VSRT mission statement is to provide immediate, efficient, and compassionate service to crime victims in an effort to mitigate the damage done by criminals. To provide assistance to victims, including benefits such as, Texas Crime Victims Compensation and referral to local community agencies.

HISTORY OF VSRT

The El Paso Police Department views Family Violence as a serious crime and takes a proactive stance to safe-guard victim's rights. The Victims Services Response Team, known as VSRT, was initiated in 1995. The program's goals are to provide assistance and valuable information about domestic violence, assault, sexual assault, or any other type of victimization, and to form a collaboration with other gencies to address issues related to these types of victimizations while increasing officer training and public awareness throughout the community. A VSRT representative is available at each EPPD Regional Command Center, and at Headquarters. A police officer has been assigned to Headquarters to ensure victim's rights continue to be safeguarded.

HOW CAN VSRT HELP YOU?

VSRT provides assistance to victims of crime by explaining the application process for Protection Orders, referrals to appropriate agencies to ensure that victim's needs are met, acts as a liaison between the victim and the law enforcement/criminal justice system to ensure proper response to help the safeguard the victim's rights, and assists with the application for the Texas Crime Victim's Compensation Program.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE is an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself.

DATING VIOLENCE is an act by an individual against another individual with whom that person currently has or has had a dating relationship and that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the individual in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect one-self.

FAMILY: Includes individuals related by blood or marriage, individuals who are the biological parents of the same child without regard to marriage and foster parents, whether or not they reside together.

HOUSEHOLD: Means a unit composed of persons living together in the same dwelling without regard to whether they are related to each other. Also includes a person who previously lived in a household.

CRIME VICTIM: Someone who is the victim of sexual assault, kidnapping, or aggravated robbery or who has suffered bodily injury or death because of a criminal conduct of another.

SAFETY PLAN DURING AN EXPOSIVE INCIDENT

If an argument seems unavoidable, try to have it in a room or area that has access to an exit and not in the bathroom, kitchen, or anywhere near weapons.

Practice how to get out of your home safely. Identify which doors, windows, elevator, or stairwell would be best.

Have a packed bag ready and keep it in a hidden place.

Identify a neighbor you can call about the violence and ask that they call the police if they hear a disturbance coming from your home.

Devise a code word to use with your children, family, friends, and neighbors when you need to have them call the police.

Devise a plan of where you will go if you have to leave home (even if you don't think you will need to).

Use good judgment and trust your instincts. If the situation is very dangerous, consider giving the abuser what he/she wants to calm him/her down. You have the right to protect yourself until you are out of danger.

For more information on safety planning please go to:

<https://www.thehotline.org/help/path-to-safety/>

RESOURCES

A PROTECTIVE ORDER is a court order issued in domestic violence and dating violence cases to prevent further acts of violence. Please contact the El Paso County Attorney's Office to apply and for more information.

AN EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE ORDER is issued at the time the aggressor is placed under arrest. It is valid for up to 90 days and no less than 30 days and is mandated under certain circumstances.

CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION

The Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Program is administered by the Office of the Attorney General and is dedicated to ensuring that crime victims receive every possible assistance. To receive compensation VSRT can help you complete a CVC application. Once completed it is sent to Austin, Texas for approval. If approved, aid can cover crime related costs. Eligible items include: medical, dental, hospital, physical therapy, psychiatric care, counseling, one-time relocation assistance for victims of family violence or a victim of a sexual assault who is assaulted in their residence, loss of earnings or support, funeral/burial expenses, and crime scene clean-up costs.

For more information on Victim's Rights please visit:
<https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs/rights.html>

EL PASO POLICE DEPARTMENT IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	832-4400
Crime Against Children	212-0382
Crime Against Persons	212-4040
STI-Traffic Investigations	212-4080
Special Victims Unit	212-4100

VICTIM SERVICES RESPONSE TEAM

Headquarters	212-4011
Central	212-4004
Mission Valley	212-8376
Northeast	212-8198
Pebble Hills	212-4665
Westside	212-8510

OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Center Against Sexual & Family Violence Hopeline	593-7300
Family Resource Center	595-2238
County Attorney's Office	546-2193
District Attorney's Office	
Victims' Assistance	546-2091
El Paso County Sheriff's Office	
Victim Services	538-2242
Military Advocacy (FAP)	568-9129
Medical Examiner	532-1447
Adult Protective Services (APS) &	
Child Protective Services	1-800-252-5400
Family Service of El Paso	781-9900
General Assistance	546-8150
Project Bravo	562-4100
Adult Probation, Victim Services	313-9712
At-Risk Youth Program	562-4765
Mothers Against Drunk Drivers	779-1987
Diocesan Migrant & Refugee	532-3975
Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid	1-888-988-9996
	and
Victim Information & Notification	585-5100
Every day (VINE)	1-877-894-8463