



# ADVANCED child abuse INVESTIGATION

## Statewide Resources

### Governmental Organizations

2-1-1

<https://www.211texas.org/211/>

A program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission that provides a multitude of social service resources.

*Crime Victims' Compensation*

[https://www.oag.state.tx.us/victims/about\\_comp.shtml](https://www.oag.state.tx.us/victims/about_comp.shtml)

Texas courts collect court costs from convicted offenders for the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund. In 1979 the Texas Legislature passed the Crime Victims' Compensation Act, creating the Compensation to Victims of Crime Fund and the Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) Program. The primary purpose of the Fund is to encourage greater victim participation in the apprehension and prosecution of criminals and reimbursing innocent victims for certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred as a result of violent crime

*Missing Persons Clearinghouse (MPCH)*

Public Website: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/mpch>,

Downloadable Forms: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/mpch/criteria.htm>

The Missing Persons Clearinghouse (MPCH) serves as a central repository of information about Texas' missing persons or persons missing from other states but believed to be in Texas. The Clearinghouse also provides a centralized file for the exchange of information with law enforcement agencies.

*Other Victim Assistance Grants (OVAG)*

<https://www.oag.state.tx.us/victims/grants.shtml#ovag>

The purpose of the OVAG Program is to provide funds, using a competitive allocation method, to programs that address the unmet needs of victims by maintaining or increasing their access to quality services.

*Texas Abuse/Neglect Hotline*

1-800-252-5400 or <https://www.txabusehotline.org>

The Department of Family and Protective Services provides this secure website for reporting suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people who are elderly (65 years or older). This website is only for reporting situations that do not require an emergency response. An emergency is a situation where a child, adult with disabilities, or person who is elderly faces an immediate risk of abuse or neglect that could result in death or serious harm.

*Texas AMBER Alert Network*

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/Operations/Alerts/>

The Texas AMBER Alert Network provides law enforcement a mechanism for rapid notification of the most serious child abduction cases to the media and the public. The State Network has the ability to disseminate the AMBER Alert to any geographical area in Texas, based on investigative recommendations.

*Texas Attorney General Office*

[www.oag.state.tx.us](http://www.oag.state.tx.us)

The attorney general is charged by the state constitution to defend the laws and constitution of Texas, represent the state in litigation, and approve public bond issues. The Office of the Attorney General is also a law enforcement agency and employs a staff of sworn peace officers investigating special classes of offenses – including issues surrounding child abuse and exploitation, pursuing fugitives, and conducting investigations at the requests of local prosecutors.

*Texas Center for the Missing*

713-599-0235 or <http://www.thetexascenter.org>

Texas Center for the Missing is a 501©(3) nonprofit dedicated to bringing hope and healing to the missing and their families through crisis intervention, prevention, and community education. Texas Center for the Missing is Houston's Regional Amber Alert Provider and oversees the Southeast Texas Child Abduction Response Team and the Southeast Texas Search and Rescue Alliance. The Center provides free child identification kits for parents should their child ever go missing. Texas Center for the Missing offers extensive community education for children to help them be aware, to prevent being abducted, and to know what to do if they are abducted. Although the center primarily covers the 14 counties closest to Houston, they also offer a broad spectrum of services to all law enforcement agencies across Texas. If your agency is interested in learning more about how to start a Child Abduction Response Team (CART), contact Texas Center for the Missing.

*Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services – Blind Children's Vocational Discovery and Development Program*

1-800-628-5115 or [www.dars.state.tx.us/dbs/bcp.shtml](http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dbs/bcp.shtml)

The Division for Blind Services Blind Children's Vocational Discovery and Development Program (BCVDDP) helps hundreds of Texas families by providing information and support to help their children grow and thrive. A Blind Children's Program Specialist—an expert in providing services to children with visual impairments—works with each child and family to create a Family Service Plan. The plan—tailored to the child's unique needs and circumstances—is a flexible document that will develop along with the child.

*Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services – Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (for sign language interpreters)*

1-800-628-5115 or [www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/list.shtml](http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/list.shtml)

Provides an online list of local providers/contractors

*Texas Department of Family and Protective Services*

[www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us)

An agency of the Texas Health and Human Services System that protects children, the elderly, and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Among other things, DFPS provides the following resources: Texas Abuse/Neglect Hotline, Texas Runaway Hotline, Texas Youth Hotline, and the Texas CPS Disproportionality Division.

*Texas DFPS, CPS Disproportionality Division*

<http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/about/renewal/cps/disproportionality.asp>

By working in tandem with local, regional, state, and national agencies in education, juvenile justice, health, and similar resources, the child welfare community seeks to identify common issues and barriers to equal access to community services for all Texans. Disproportionality is the over representation of a particular race or cultural group in a particular program or system. In Texas a higher percentage of African-American children are removed from their homes, a lower percentage are successfully reunited with their families, and a higher percentage age out of foster care without an adoptive family or other permanent placement.

*Texas Juvenile Probation Commission*

<http://www.tjpc.state.tx.us/>

The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission works in partnership with local juvenile boards and juvenile probation departments to support and enhance juvenile probation services throughout the state by providing funding, technical assistance, and training; establishing and enforcing standards; collecting, analyzing and disseminating information; and facilitating communications between state and local entities.

*Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Evidence Handbook*

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/ftp/forms/PEHmanual.pdf>

The DPS Evidence Handbook lists the evidence collection practices to be used by officers when submitting evidence to DPS labs for analysis.

*Texas Runaway Hotline*

1-888-580-HELP or [http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Runaway\\_hotline/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Runaway_hotline/default.asp)

Texas Runaway Hotline provides comprehensive information and referrals to shelter, counseling, medical assistance, and related services; confidential conference calls to parents; conference calls to shelters and agencies in the caller's area to confirm appropriate and available services; a message relay service that helps runaways contact families on their own terms, which not only helps give parents peace of mind, but promotes communication; and assistance to runaways who wish to access Operation Home Free, a service that provides free transportation.

*Texas Youth Commission*

<http://www.tyc.state.tx.us/>

The Texas Youth Commission, the state's juvenile corrections agency, promotes public safety by operating juvenile correctional facilities and by partnering with youth, families, and communities to provide a safe and secure environment where youth in the agency's care and custody receive individualized education, treatment, life skills and employment training and positive role models to facilitate successful community reintegration.

*Texas Youth Hotline*

1-800-98YOUTH or [http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Youth\\_Hotline/default.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Youth_Hotline/default.asp)

The Texas Youth Hotline is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week **and** provides prevention services to youths, parents, siblings, and other family members who are in need of a caring voice and listening ear. The Hotline counselors also assist youth advocates, such as, police, caseworkers, counselors and school officials by locating state and local resources.

### *Victim Coordinator and Liaison Grants (VCLG)*

<https://www.oag.state.tx.us/victims/grants.shtml#vclg>

The purpose of the Victim Coordinator and Liaison Grants (VCLG) program is to fund the mandated positions described in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 56.04, specifically Victim Assistance Coordinators (VAC) in prosecutor offices and Crime Victim Liaisons (CVL) in law enforcement agencies.

### Non-Governmental Organizations

#### *Advocacy, Inc.*

1-800-252-9108 or [www.advocacyinc.org](http://www.advocacyinc.org)

Congress has passed a number of laws to protect people with disabilities from discrimination that limits their full and equal participation in society. Congress also created a national network of protection and advocacy organizations (P&As) to help people with disabilities understand and exercise their rights under the law. Advocacy Inc. is the legal protection and advocacy agency for Texans with disabilities.

#### *American Gateway*

<http://www.americangateways.org/>

American Gateways is a Central Texas non-profit organization that provides immigration legal services and education to secure justice for new Americans and enrich Central Texas communities.

#### *The Arc of Texas*

1-800-252-9729 or [www.thearcoftexas.org](http://www.thearcoftexas.org)

The Arc of Texas is affiliated with The Arc of the United States, which advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities on a national level.

#### *Brain Injury Association of Texas*

1-800-392-0040 or [www.biatx.org](http://www.biatx.org)

The Brain Injury Association of Texas, chartered as a non-profit public service organization, strives to meet the urgent need to develop programs for public awareness and education, to support research and rehabilitation and to provide family guidance. Funds to accomplish these tasks come from individuals, business and industry, and public donations and grants.

#### *Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc.*

[www.cactx.org](http://www.cactx.org)

Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc. (CACTX) is the statewide membership association, representing all local children's advocacy centers (CACs) in the Lone Star State. See "One with Courage" for further resources.

#### *Children's Justice Act*

<http://www.texascja.org/>

The Children's Justice Act (CJA) is a federal grant awarded to each state to develop, establish, and operate programs designed to improve the child-protection system in four primary areas: (1) The handling of child abuse and neglect cases, particularly cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a manner which limits additional trauma to the child victim; (2) The handling of cases of suspected child abuse or neglect related fatalities; (3) The investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation; and (4) The handling of cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems who are the victims of abuse or neglect.

*Learning Disabilities Association of Texas Municipal Police Association*

1-800-604-7500 or [www.ldat.org](http://www.ldat.org)

The Learning Disabilities Association of Texas (LDAT) is a not-for-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to advancing the education and general welfare of persons with learning disabilities.

*Mental Health Association in Texas*

512-454-3706 or [www.mhatexas.org](http://www.mhatexas.org)

Founded in 1935 as a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, Mental Health America of Texas reaches out to communities across Texas to promote mental health, prevent mental disorders, and improve the care and treatment of people with mental illnesses through education and advocacy.

*National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas (NAMI)*

1-800-633-3760 or [www.namitexas.org](http://www.namitexas.org)

NAMI Texas is dedicated to eradicating the stigma, myths, and misconceptions of mental illnesses, to improving the quality of life for all who are affected by these illnesses, and to supporting recovery. They support their affiliates by providing leadership, training, and technical assistance. They are dedicated to serving communities by empowering consumers and families and promoting meaningful systems change.

*One with Courage*

[www.onewithcourage.org](http://www.onewithcourage.org)

Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc.'s statewide initiative centered around the courage it takes to talk about child sexual abuse. As the nation's leading state membership association of Children's Advocacy Centers, the goal each and every day is to change the way Texas responds to child abuse. See "Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, Inc." for further resources.

*Prevent Child Abuse Texas*

[www.preventchildabusetexas.org](http://www.preventchildabusetexas.org)

Prevent Child Abuse Texas (PCATX) is a statewide non-profit organization working to prevent child abuse and neglect in all its forms throughout Texas.

*The Shaken Baby Alliance*

[www.shakenbaby.com](http://www.shakenbaby.com)

The Shaken Baby Alliance was founded in 1998 by three mothers whose children were victims of Shaken Baby Syndrome. Kim Kang, Melonie (Smith) Caster, and Bonnie Armstrong joined together with a goal of forming a collaborative agency that could meet the needs of families and professionals involved in child abuse cases. Rather than focus on the negative aspects of what happened to their children, these moms focused on the positive outcomes that could be obtained through their experience by providing education about this devastating form of child abuse to families and professionals and advocating for children. The Shaken Baby Alliance's mission of Support, Prevention, and Justice is strengthened through each program offered.

*Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services*

[www.tacfs.org](http://www.tacfs.org)

Texas Alliance of Child and Family Services is a member-supported association with a long history of advocating for children and families in Texas. Alliance members share common goals to improve the quality of care for Texas' most at-risk children and families.

*Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (DEC)*

[www.texasdec.org](http://www.texasdec.org)

The Texas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children was formed in an effort to protect Texas children living in volatile drug environments. Professionals from law enforcement, child protective services, the criminal justice system, medical and mental health professions, educators, and other child advocates have come together to make children a priority. TADEC advocates for intervention on behalf of children in volatile drug environments and assists communities in building collaborative, multidisciplinary Drug Endangered Children (DEC) alliances.

*Texas Association against Sexual Assault (TAASA)*

[www.taasa.org](http://www.taasa.org)

TAASA was founded on a simple principle: to assist sexual assault survivors and to create a Texas free from sexual violence. TAASA advocates for individual sexual assault survivors as well as sexual assault programs collectively. That advocacy takes many forms, from supporting legislation favorable to victims and strengthening laws against sexual predators, to advocating for increased funding for sexual assault programs at both the federal and state levels. Since 1982, TAASA has provided statewide and regional trainings/conferences to over 100,000 Texans and provided over 6 million materials through rape crisis centers and community partners free of charge.

*Texas CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocates*

1-877-TX4-CASA or [www.texascasa.org](http://www.texascasa.org)

Texas CASA is part of a national volunteer movement that began over 25 years ago, when a judge in Seattle decided he needed to know more about the children whose lives were in his hands. The solution he started was using community volunteers as a "voice in court" for abused and neglected children. These Court Appointed Special Advocates® (CASA) provided him with the detailed information he needed to safeguard the children's best interests and ensure that they were placed in safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible.

*Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)*

[www.tcfv.org](http://www.tcfv.org)

Since 1978, the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) has been a nationally recognized leader in the efforts to end family violence through partnerships, advocacy and direct services for women, children and men.

*Texas Foster Families Association*

<http://www.tffa.org/>

For over three decades TFFA has focused on protecting children by working to progressively improve the Texas Foster Care system to ensure provision of the supports and services needed by the children in foster care and the foster families who so diligently serve them twenty-four hours a day, every day.

*Texas Parent to Parent*

1-866-896-6001 or [www.txp2p.org](http://www.txp2p.org)

Provides support and information to families of children with disabilities, chronic illness, and special health care needs

*TexProtect – The Texas Association for the Protection of Children*

[www.texprotects.org](http://www.texprotects.org)

TexProtect's mission is to reduce and prevent child abuse by educating and organizing its members to communicate with government officials, public and private funders, and the public-at-large about the need for increased investments in research-based best practices of child abuse prevention programs, CPS reforms, and treatment programs for victims of abuse.

*Trade in Hope*

<http://www.tradeinhope.com/>

*Trade in Hope* is a film about modern-day slavery in Texas; specifically the trafficking of women and children into the commercial sex industry. The film will focus on personal stories from American brothels, explore the elements of our society that fuel the sex trade, and act as a witness to those who are working to curtail and end this illegal, underground market.