

NOTICE TO ADULT VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

It is a crime for any person to cause you any physical injury or harm. **EVEN IF THAT PERSON IS A MEMBER OR FORMER MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD.**

Please tell the investigating peace officer:

IF you, your child, or any other household resident has been injured; or

IF you feel you are going to be in danger when the officer leaves, or later.

You have the right to:

ASK the local prosecutor to file a criminal complaint against the person committing family violence (press charges); and

APPLY to a court for an order to protect you (you should consult a legal aid office, a prosecuting attorney, or a private attorney). For example, the court can enter order that:

- (1) The abuser not commit any further acts of violence;
- (2) The abuser not threaten, harass or contact you at home;
- (3) Directs the abuse to leave your household; and
- (4) Establishes temporary custody of the children and directs the abuser not to interfere with the children or any property.

A VIOLATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF COURT-ORDERED PROTECTION (such as (1) and (2) above) IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

CALL THE FOLLOWING VIOLENCE SHELTERS OR SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS IF YOU NEED PROTECTION: 1-800-621-8882

TEXAS VINE

WHAT IS Texas VINE?

VINE is an automated service that allows you to **track the custody status of offenders or court hearings** over the phone or Internet. You can also register to be notified by phone and email if an offender is released, transferred, or escapes; or registers to be notified by phone and email about changes in the status of a court event.

CUSTODY Information

Call **(877) 894-8463** or visit **www.vinelink.com** and follow the instructions to access custody information. Registration If the offender is in custody, you can register to receive notifications. If registering a phone number, you will be asked to create a four-digit personal identification number (PIN) that will be used to confirm that the call was received. Make sure your PIN is easy to remember. Notification you will be notified about the following events: Release, transfer, escape, or death when VINE calls, listen to the message, then enter your PIN followed by the pound (#) key when asked. Entering the PIN lets the service know that you received the call and will stop the service from calling you again.

THINGS to remember

- **If you feel you are in danger, call 911 immediately.** Since VINE calls automatically when an offender's custody status changes, you may get a call from VINE in the middle of the night.
- If you do not answer a notification call, VINE will leave a message. If there is no answer, VINE will continue calling back until you enter your PIN or until up to 48 hours have passed.
- Do not register a phone number that rings to a switchboard.
- VINE is confidential. The offender will not know you are registered with VINE. You can register multiple phone numbers and email addresses for notifications.
- If you forget your PIN, call the toll-free number (877) 894-8463 and press zero. You will be transferred to an operator who can help you reset your PIN or cancel notification.
- VINE Operators are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist you.

Office of the Attorney General

P.O. Box 12198 Austin, Texas 78711-2198

(800) 983-9933 Statewide

(512) 936-1200 in Austin

(512) 936-1800 Fax

www.texasattorneygeneral.gov

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

(800) 848-4284

Texas Association Against Sexual Assault

(888) 918-2272

Texas Council on Family Violence

(800) 525-1978

National Domestic Violence Hotline

(800) 799-SAFE(7233)

Women's Advocacy Project

Family Violence Legal Line

(800) 374-HOPE(4673)

National Center for Missing and Exploited

Children

(800) 843-5678

Child and Elder Abuse Hotline

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (800) 252-5400

Texas Rural Legal Aid

(800) 369-0574

Family Law Hotline

(800) 777-3247