

# Notice to Adult Victims

Family Violence, Stalking, Harassment, or Terroristic Threat  
CCP Art. 5.04; HRC Sec. 51A.003 (SB 1325)

It is a crime for any person to cause you any physical injury or harm, engage in conduct constituting stalking, harassment, or terroristic threat toward a victim, EVEN IF THAT PERSON IS A MEMBER OR FORMER MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD.

PLEASE TELL THE INVESTIGATING DEPUTY:

- 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 Deputy leaves or later.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- ASK the local prosecutor to file a criminal complaint against the person committing family violence, stalking, harassment, or terroristic threat; 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). If a family or household member assaults you and is arrested, you may request that a magistrate's order for emergency protection be issued. Please inform the investigating Deputy if you want an order for emergency protection. You need not be present when the order is issued. You cannot be charged a fee by a court in connection with filing, serving, or entering a protective order.

For example, the court can enter an order that:

- o 1. The abuser not commit further acts of violence;
- o 2. The abuser not threaten, harass, or contact you at home;
- o 3. Directs the abuser to leave your household; and
- o 4. Establishes temporary custody of the children and directs the abuser not to interfere with the children or any property.
- o 5. The ability of a tenant who is a victim of family violence to vacate a dwelling and terminate a residential lease.

A VIOLATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF COURT-ORDERED PROTECTION (such as (1) and (2) above) MAY BE A FELONY.

CALL THE FOLLOWING VIOLENCE SHELTERS OR COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IF YOU NEED PROTECTION:

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| 1. Austin County District Attorney's Office | 979-865-5933 (business hours) |
| 2. Gulf Coast Legal Foundation (legal aid)  | 979-865-9133 (business hours) |
| 3. Focusing Families (local counseling)     | 979-826-0000                  |
| 4. Ft. Bend County Women's Center (shelter) | 281-342-4357                  |
| 5. Houston Area's Women's Center (shelter)  | 713-528-2121                  |
| 6. Victim Support Services DPS              | 281-517-1606                  |
| 7. National Domestic Violence Hotline       | 800-799-7233                  |

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Received by me from:

Deputy: \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_