



# UNITED EFFORTS HELP CRIME VICTIMS

by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott

FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS, THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (OAG) has partnered with local, community-based organizations to help crime victims during the recovery process. This united effort between the OAG's Crime Victim Services Division and local advocacy groups ensures victims receive a response that is tailored to their unique circumstances and needs.

One of the Crime Victim Services Division's key partners is the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV), a statewide coalition that works to promote safe and healthy domestic relationships. TCFV works tirelessly to support service providers, facilitate strategic prevention efforts and create opportunities for victims to be free from family violence.

This year, the OAG's Crime Victim Services Division partnered with TCFV to implement two legislative initiatives that will aid Texas crime victims.

First, the OAG coordinated with TCFV and other victim assistance organizations to implement the Texas Address Confidentiality Program (ACP).

Created under legislation authored by Sen. Eddie Lucio, the ACP allows family violence, stalking and sexual

assault victims to obtain a confidential address that helps protect their privacy and keep their location secure. Victims seeking a confidential address must meet with a local domestic violence shelter, sexual assault prevention center, law enforcement agency or local prosecutor's office to discuss a safety plan, and learn more about the enrollment process. As part of an overall safety plan, the ACP provides a vital tool for domestic violence survivors who fear for their safety.

Under the recently created law, Texans seeking protection through the ACP must meet with a victim advocate at a local shelter or sexual assault prevention center. Victims seeking a local shelter may access the TCFV Web site at [www.tcfv.org](http://www.tcfv.org) or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at (800) 799-SAFE. Victims may contact a sexual assault prevention center through the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA) Web site, [www.taasa.org](http://www.taasa.org), or by calling the National Sexual Assault Hotline at (800) 656-HOPE.

Another recent initiative involving the OAG and TCFV was the launch of the "LOVE" campaign, which was created to heighten public awareness about

teen dating violence. The "LOVE" campaign is helping Texas schools satisfy their obligations under House Bill 121, a 2007 law that requires Texas school districts to adopt and implement a dating violence policy.

To help schools fulfill their HB 121 requirements, TCFV will distribute an informational toolkit to all high schools throughout Texas. The toolkits include campaign posters with information about the National Teen Domestic Violence hotline, which can be reached at (866) 331-9474, and Web site, [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org). These 24-hour-a-day resources offer real-time, one-on-one support for teens involved in abusive relationships. The "LOVE" campaign also will distribute public service announcements, wallet cards and other educational materials to help protect students.

United efforts among public agencies and nonprofit associations help make programs like the ACP and the "LOVE" campaign successful. TCFV, TAASA and other advocacy organizations provide critically important services to victims all across the state. Thanks to public-private initiatives with these organizations, the OAG is working tirelessly and cooperatively to protect Texas crime victims.

## POINTS TO REMEMBER



### ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

For more information about the Address Confidentiality Program or to learn more about the eligibility criteria, contact:

#### **Texas Address Confidentiality Program**

Office of the Attorney General

(512) 936-1750 or (888) 832-2322

E-mail: [crimevictims@oag.state.tx.us](mailto:crimevictims@oag.state.tx.us)

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

#### **"LOVE" campaign on teen dating violence**

The National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline

(866) 331-9474 or (866) 331-8453

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

The Texas Council on Family Violence

(512) 794-1133 • [www.tcfv.org](http://www.tcfv.org)

#### **Crime Victims' Compensation Program**

For more information about the Office of the Attorney General's Crime Victims'

Compensation Program, contact:

#### **CRIME VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION**

Office of the Attorney General

Monday–Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Toll Free: (800) 983-9933

E-mail: [crimevictims@oag.state.tx.us](mailto:crimevictims@oag.state.tx.us)

[www.texasattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov)



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT