

Victim Services

The Victim Services Division of the Kyle Police Department is dedicated to positively impacting the quality of life for the citizens of Kyle by assisting victims, survivors, families, neighborhoods, and businesses experiencing crime or trauma.

A Victim Services staff member is available to assist those affected by an incident. It is your right as a victim to request and receive these services. If you have an emergency, call 9-1-1. For non-emergency situations, you may call (512) 268-3232 for assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Reactions to traumatic events, such as sexual abuse, may appear immediately following an event, or days or weeks later. Children who have experienced a traumatic event commonly express feelings through behavioral changes.

Common Reactions

- **Fear** — fear of separation, fear of closed-in areas, fear of new situations
- **Sleep Disturbance** — nightmares, refusal to sleep alone, interrupted sleep, excessive sleep
- **Physical Complaints** — stomach aches, headaches and other bodily symptoms with no physical cause
- **Change in Eating Habits** — loss of appetite, reluctance to eat, eating binges, food hoarding
- **Regressive Behavior** — loss of toilet training, thumb sucking, bed wetting, fear of darkness
- **School Performance** — difficulty concentrating, refusal to attend classes or activities, decline in performance, disruptive behavior, difficulty with peer relationships
- **Change in Demeanor** — withdrawal, emotional numbing, confusion, anger out-bursts, loss of trust in others, expressions of guilt, crying, whimpering.

Just as every child is unique, so is every child's reaction to a traumatic event. Your child may display one, a few, or all of these reactions. It's important to remember that most children only experience reactions for brief time periods.

Respect

Remember that most children desire to please and succeed. Monitoring your discussions about the incident, the child, and your feelings and fears is important. Doing so provides respect for your child's privacy and feelings and may minimize their sense of shame, guilt or responsibility about what occurred.

Another way to respect your child is by allowing them to decide whether or not they want to talk. For some, art or playing may be the most comfortable way of expression.

Sometimes family secrets surface and grudges develop in response to traumatic events. Respect and privacy of the child need to be a priority. Therefore, you may need to be selective about sharing the information. Take into consideration how the person you are sharing the information with will react and try to prepare for unexpected responses.

Rules and Routine

It is common for parents to relax rules and disrupt routines when a child has experienced a difficult event. The reality is that rules and routines help them maintain their sense of safety, security, and assist with their recovery. Parents often forget or don't see a child as resilient. When provided with support and safety, recovery for a child is usually done with little difficulty. On the other hand, parents are usually more upset and distressed during the recovery process.

Time and Patience

Patience may run short for both you and your child. After a traumatic event, you and your child will require time to adjust. We all have a need for a sense of security and reassuring your child they are safe and that those they love are safe is one of the healthiest responses you can provide.

Emotions for you and your child will most likely be at different states and levels. As time passes the strength of the feelings and other effects of the experience will lessen. Providing a balance of honest information about the incident and education about the prevention of future incidents is a wonderful way to help your

child gain awareness, a sense of control, and reduce the impact of the traumatic event.

Remember, involvement in a traumatic event can produce upsetting responses such as disturbed sleep, changes in appetite, and difficulty concentrating. These responses will likely subside with time. However, if reactions are especially long lasting or troubling, you may need to turn to a helping professional for assistance.

Judicial System

For many, this may be the first involvement with law enforcement or the judicial system. It's very common for people to expect what they have seen on television or movies to apply to their current circumstances. Unfortunately, these expectations are often unrealistic or a distorted snapshot of how things truly operate.

Texas has laws and regulations in place aimed at protecting victims. For cases involving prosecution, court advocates can provide you with information, education, and support that will help reduce fears and uncertainties.

Criminal case resolution by plea agreement is a practice that is often utilized. Through both negotiation and agreement, this approach to resolution can prevent the need for testifying in court.

Education and information regarding how the judicial system operates can assist victims and their family in the reduction of trauma.

Child Abuse Statistics

In 2022, 67,558 children received critical services at a children's advocacy center in Texas. Of the 67,558 child victims who served at a CAC in Texas, 98% KNEW their alleged perpetrator. To learn more about the statistics of Child Abuse Advocacy Centers in Texas go to cactx.org

In 2022 HCWC (Hays-Caldwell Women's Center) supported 299 children from Kyle who were the victims of Child Abuse, the most from any city in their two (2) county serving area.

Rights of Crime Victims

The right to protection from threats of harm arising from cooperation with prosecution efforts.

The right to have your safety and that of your family taken into consideration when bail is being considered.

If you so request, the right to be informed in advance about court proceedings, including cancellations or rescheduling.

If you so request, the right to information about procedures in the criminal investigations of your case by law enforcement officials, and about general procedures in the criminal justice system, including plea bargaining, restitution, appeals, and parole from the prosecutor's office.

The right to receive information about the Texas Crime Victim's Compensation Fund that provides financial assistance to victims of violent crimes and, if you so request, referral to social service agencies that may provide additional help.

The right to provide information to the probation department conducting a pre-sentence investigation on the impact of the crime.

The right to have a law enforcement agency pay for medical examinations for victims of sexual assault and request the right to counseling regarding AIDS and HIV infection and testing for sexual assault victims.

If you so request, the right to be notified of parole proceedings by the Victim Services Section of the Pardons and Paroles Division, the right to participate in the parole process by submitting a victim impact statement or other information, and the right to be notified of the inmate's release.

The right to be present at all public court proceedings, if the presiding judge permits.

The right to a safe waiting area before and during court proceedings.

The right to prompt return of any property that is no longer required as evidence.

If you so request, the right to have the prosecutor notify your employer that the need for your testimony may involve your absence from work.

The right to complete a Victim Impact Statement, detailing the emotional, physical and financial impact that the crime has had on you and your family, and to have that statement considered by the judge at sentencing and by the parole board prior to taking any parole action.

A victim of a sexual assault, stalking, family violence or human trafficking may choose a pseudonym to be used instead of the victim's name to designate the victim in all public files and records concerning the offense.

Helpful Phone Numbers

Victim Assistance Programs

District Attorney's Office (512) 393-7617
Hays County Sheriff's Office (512) 393-7617
San Marcos Police Department (512) 753-2106
Kyle Police Department (512) 268-3232

24-Hour Crisis Hotline

Hays-Caldwell Women's Center (512) 396-4357
Roxanne's House (512) 396-7276
National Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 799-7233
TTY (800) 787-3224
National Sexual Assault Hotline (800) 656-4673
Runaway Hotline (888) 580-4357
Teen Dating Abuse Hotline (866) 331-9474

Criminal Case Information

District Attorney's Office (512) 393-7700
Protective Orders (512) 393-7600
Hays Co. Sheriff's Office (512) 393-7800
Magistrates (512) 393-7872/7871

VINE - Jail & Release Information:

(Victim Information Notification Everyday)

(877)-894-8463

www.vinelink.com

Civil Case Information

Hays Co. CPS/APS (512) 753-2259
Family Law Line (800) 777-FAIR
Family Violence Legal Line (800) 374-HOPE
Domestic Relations (Final Crt. Order Only) (512) 854-9696
Legal Aid (512) 374-2700
Texas Advocacy Project (512) 476-5770
Lawyer Referral Service (512) 472-8303

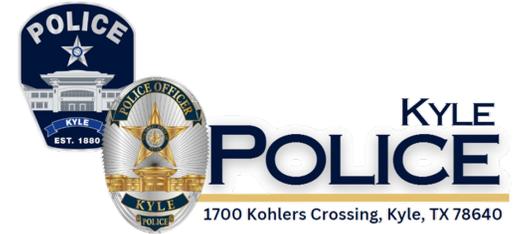
Counseling/Support Services

Community Based Victim Advocacy (512) 396-4357
Hays-Caldwell Women's Center

Roxanne's House (Child Advocacy Ctr) (512) 396-7276
Youth Council (512) 754-0500
Southside Community Center (512) 392-6016
Scheib Mental Health Center (512) 392-7151
Hays-Caldwell Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse (512) 396-7695

Family/Emergency Services

Seton Medical Center - Hays (512) 504-5125/5000
Dells Children Hospital (512) 324-0000
Hays Co. Personal Health Dept (512) 268-1270
Hays CISD - Well Clinic (512) 268-5218
American Red Cross (800) 928-4271
Salvation Army (512) 476-1111
Safe Riders (car seats) (800) 252-8255



1700 Kohlers Crossing, Kyle, TX 78640

Non-Emergency Phone No: 512-268-3232

Administration No: 512-268-0859

Victim Services

Child Abuse

Police Report Number:

Criminal Investigations Division (CID)

KPD Web Site:
www.cityofkyle.com/police

Additional Questions?
Email: kpdivs@cityofkyle.com

08/2023