

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Office of Student Advocacy and Support
(214) 768-4564

Dr. Bob Smith Health Center
(214) 768 2141

SMU Chaplains Office
(214) 768-4502

SMU Title IX Office, Access, and Equity
(214) 768 3601

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Dallas, Texas 75205

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SOUTHERN METHODIST
UNIVERSITY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

214-768-3388

WWW.SMU.EDU/POLICE

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS

A victim, guardian of a victim, or a close relative of a deceased victim is entitled to the following rights within the criminal justice system as Article 56.02 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure:

1. The right to receive from law enforcement agencies adequate protection from harm and threats of harm arising from cooperation with prosecution efforts;
2. The right to have the magistrate take the safety of the victim and of his family into consideration as an element in fixing the amount of bail for the accused;
3. The right, if requested, to be informed:
 - By the attorney representing the State of relevant court proceedings, and to be informed if these proceedings have been canceled or rescheduled prior to the event; and
 - By an appellate court of the decisions of the court, after the decisions are entered but before the decisions are made public.
4. The right to be informed, when requested, by a peace officer concerning the defendant's right to bail and the procedures in the criminal justice system, including general procedures in the criminal justice system, general procedures in the guilty plea negotiations and arrangements, restitution, and the appeals and parole process;
5. The right to receive information regarding compensation to victims of crime;
6. The right to be informed, upon request, of parole procedures, to participate in the parole process;
7. The right to be provided with a waiting area, separate or secure from other witnesses, including the offender and relatives of the offender, before testifying in any proceeding concerning the offender;
8. The right to prompt return of any property of the victim that is held by a law enforcement agency or the attorney for the State as evidence when the property is no longer required for that purpose;
9. The right to have the attorney for the State notify the employer of the victim, if requested, of the necessity of the victim's cooperation and testimony in a proceeding that may necessitate the absence of the victim from work;
10. The right to counseling, on request, regarding acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and testing for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), antibodies to HIV, of infection with any other probable causative agent of AIDS, if the offense is an offense under Section 21.11 (a)(1), 22.01, or 22.021, Penal Code;
11. The right to be present at all public court proceedings related to the offense, subject to the approval of the judge in the case.
12. The right to request victim offender mediation by the Victim Services Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.
13. The right to be informed of the uses of a victim impact statement, and to have the victim impact statement considered; By the attorney representing the State and judge before sentencing or before a plea bargain agreement is accepted; and by the Board of Pardons and Paroles before an offender is released on parole.
14. Except as provided by Article 56.06(a), for a victim of sexual assault, the right to a forensic medical examination if the sexual assault is reported to a law enforcement agency within 120 hours of the assault

