

YOUR PRIVACY RIGHTS

CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVILEGE PROTECTIONS



Questions? Ask your advocate for more information!

Your information belongs to you!

At the Crisis Center we believe in the importance of survivors of family violence having a safe space to share information and receive the services they choose. In Texas, the law supports this and offers legal protections that affect the way your information gets shared with others that support this belief. Under Chapter 93 of the Texas Family Code, which is also supported by the confidentiality requirements in the Violence Against Women Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, you may have privileged and confidential communication with your advocate and other staff members at the Crisis Center.

We might have to share your information in these ways:

- Sometimes, information about your case may be shared with other the Crisis Center staff to offer the best services possible. Please let your advocate know if you have questions about the sharing of your information within the agency.
- You might want your information shared with outside people. In those circumstances, you can sign a Release of Information that will outline what information you want to share and for how long. An example of a time you would like your information shared might be for an advocate to talk to your landlord or CPS case worker. Your advocate can talk with you more about how privilege applies when you sign a release.

How to help keep your information private:

- It is important to have conversations with your advocate when others are not around. As such, when you meet with your advocate they may ask that other people step out of the room.
- Sharing information about your interactions with your advocate outside of the Crisis Center either online or in person can sometimes affect how people share your information. Talk to an advocate before sharing things with friends and family outside the Crisis Center.



We may have to disclose your information:

There might be times that agency staff must disclose certain identifying client information by law. Find these exceptions listed below. Please ask an advocate if you have questions about the limited circumstances when the agency might have to release your information.

- Reporting suspected abuse or neglect of a child, a person who is elderly, or a person with a disability.
- If you are involved in a civil or criminal court case and your abuser is keeping you from court by means of physical abuse, threats, or coercion a prosecutor can request information from your records at the Crisis Center to be reviewed by a judge to see if it would prove your abuser has kept you away from court and whether the court will allow the prosecutor to introduce additional information at the trial.
- If you are involved in a civil or criminal court case, and your attorney uses an expert witness to review your case file or uses it in court.