

# Fact Sheet: Types of Advocacy



**CRIME VICTIMS'  
INSTITUTE**

**COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

Executive Director: Mary M. Breaux, Ph.D.

## Types of Advocacy: The Facts

Akiura S. Kelly, B.S.

Taylor D. Robinson, M.S.

### What is Advocacy?

Victim advocates are trained to assist victims of crime. They provide referrals for resources as well as offer emotional support. Advocates partner with outside organizations to help survivors receive the assistance they need to heal. [1]

### Examples of Types of Advocates

- *Residential Advocates* work in emergency shelters. They assist in keeping the shelter environment clean as well as engaging in crisis intervention. Shelter advocates consistently supply clients with any and all necessities. [2]
- *Sexual Assault Advocates* engage in hospital accompaniment and communicate with law enforcement during sexual assault related calls. They are mediators between victims and the criminal justice system and serve as a method of communication between the two. They can also assist in other necessary accompaniments, such as court accompaniment. [2, 3]
- *Special Services Advocates* work closely with minority populations, such as those whose primary language is not English, individuals with disabilities, or members of the LGBTQIA+ community. [2]
- *Legal Advocates* provide support to survivors when needing legal assistance. They cannot give legal advice, as they are not lawyers. However, they can accompany survivors as well as give referrals to legal aid. Legal advocates also keep up to date with current laws pertaining to survivors that would help them in their legal affairs (such as restraining orders or custody battles). These advocates may also assist survivors with writing out Victim Impact Statements, if they choose to present one. [2, 4]

### Skills Required in Advocacy

- Ability to build rapport with others
- Knowledge of the law
- Organizational and time management skills
- Case management skills
- Effective communication [2]

### Texas Resources

SAAFE House:

936-291-3369/saafehouse.org

Montgomery County Women's Center:

936-441-7273/mcwctx.org

Houston Area Women's Center:

713-528-2121/hawc.org

Family Time Crisis & Counseling Center:

281-446-2615/familytimeccc.org

Family Crisis Center of East Texas:

800-828-7233/familycrisiscenterofeasttexas.com

SAFE Alliance:

512-267-7233/safeaustin.org

Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc.:

210-733-8810/fvps.org

Center Against Family Violence, Inc.:

915-593-7300/casfv.org

The Purple Door:

800-580-4878/purpledoortx.org

Family Support Services of Amarillo:

806-374-5433/fss-ama.org

### National Resources

National Domestic Violence Hotline:

800-799-7233/thehotline.org

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN):

800-656-4673/rainn.org

Love is Respect:

866-331-9474/loveisrespect.org

ChildHelp:

800-422-4453/childhelp.org

### References

[1] *Understanding Victim Advocacy*. (n.d.). You Have the Right CO. Retrieved November 1, 2022, from <https://youhavetherightco.org/services/who-can-i-refer-a-survivor-to-for-help/>

[2] *Crime Victimization Glossary* | OVC. (n.d.). Office for Victims of Crime. <https://ovc.ojp.gov/library/crime-victimization-glossary>

[3] *Information for Survivors of Sexual Assault*. (n.d.). <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/sa-survivor-safe-info.pdf>

[4] *How Can a Legal Advocate Help?* (n.d.). The Hotline. Retrieved November 8, 2022, from <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/how-can-a-legal-advocate-help/>

# Texas State University System Board of Regents

**Duke Austin**

Chairman  
Houston

**Garry Crain**

First Vice Chairman  
The Hills

**Alan L. Tinsley**

Second Vice Chairman  
Madisonville

**Don Flores**

Regent  
El Paso

**Nicki Harle**

Regent  
Baird

**Stephen Lee**

Regent  
Beaumont

**Sheila Faske**

Regent  
Rose City

**William F. Scott**

Regent  
Nederland

**Charlie Amato**

Regent  
San Antonio

**Gabriel Webb**

Student Regent  
The Hills

## Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65+) <https://www.txabusehotline.org>  
800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988