A Survivor’s Guide
Thank you for taking the time to review the Prairie View A&M University Survivor's Guide. This booklet defines the crimes of dating abuse, sexual assault and stalking and provides a general overview of survivor’s rights, PVAMU policies and state and federal laws pertaining to these crimes. Although a variety of information is included within this booklet, it is not intended to be an exhaustive resource.

The Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Program (RSVP) houses supplemental print resources, videos, curriculums, contacts for off-campus resources and a library of books, magazines and newsletters designed to educate, empower and inform survivors, friends and family members. Feel free to contact the RSVP office at 936.261.1468 to access additional information, receive a referral, make an appointment to talk to an RSVP advocate or schedule a training and/or outreach presentation.

We hope that you find this information useful and we encourage survivors to utilize this booklet to arm themselves with information as they move through their journey of healing.

*The Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Staff*
The mission of the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Program at Prairie View A& M University is to educate students, staff and faculty about the dynamics of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking; coordinate an effective campus response to these crimes; promote safety on campus; provide on and off campus resource information for victims; support victims’ emotionally and advocate for victims’ legal rights and medical needs.

RSVP Offers:

*Crisis Intervention for victims/survivors of sexual assault, dating violence and/or stalking;

*Safety Planning;

*On and Off campus Resource Information and Referrals;

*Victim’s Rights advocacy;

*Response and Intervention Training;

*Prevention Education Programs for students, faculty and staff;

*Emotional Support for victims.

RSVP welcomes Female & Male Survivors and LGBTQ Survivors of sexual assault, dating abuse and stalking.

RSVP Services are free, confidential and open to all current students of Prairie View A & M University.
Survivor’s Bill of Rights

PVAMU Student Survivors of Dating Abuse, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking have the following rights:

The Right to a fair and equitable investigation

The Right to privacy

The Right to access a nonjudgmental trained advocate

The Right to be provided with referrals to resources on and off campus where victims can get help

The Right to seek medical accompaniment

The Right to seek Legal Advocacy

The Right to seek Housing/Dorm Advocacy

The Right to seek options for alternative housing

The right to assistance with navigating the Student Conduct Process

The Right to receive Safety Planning

The Right to have access to 24/7 assistance

The Right to seek on campus Crisis Intervention/Counseling services

The Right to Individual Support

The Right to make or refuse to make a formal police report of the crime

The Right to be informed of The Office of Student Conduct Board Decisions and Outcomes

*There may be occasions when confidentiality is limited (i.e. making a formal police and/or Title IX report), PVAMU officials will do all that we can to ensure that personal information is kept as private as possible.
If you have survived an abuser, and you tried to make things right... If you forgave, and you struggled, and even if the expression of your grief and your anger tumbled out at times in too much rage and too many words... If you spent years hanging on to the concepts of faith, hope, and love, even after you knew in your heart that those intangibles, upon which life is formed and sustained, would fail in the end... And especially, if you stood between your children - or anyone - and him, and took the physical, emotional, and spiritual pummeling in their stead, then you are a hero.”
— Jenna Brooks
What is Dating Abuse?

**Dating violence** is a pattern of assaultive and controlling behaviors that one person uses against another in order to gain or maintain power and control in the relationship. The abuser intentionally behaves in ways that cause fear, degradation and humiliation to control the other person. Forms of abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional and psychological.

Victims and abusers come from all social and economic backgrounds, faith communities, and racial and ethnic backgrounds. Abuse also occurs in same-sex relationships. Both females and males can be victims of dating violence, but numerous studies reveal the reality that the majority of victims are females (usually more than 95 percent).

Abusers attempt to control their partners in a variety of ways. The following is a list of common controlling behaviors:

**Isolation:** Trying to cut off the victim's relationship with family and friends; using jealousy to justify behavior.

**Emotional:** Humiliating the victim in front of friends or making the victim feel guilty when she confronts the abuser about the abuse.

**Intimidation:** Making the victim fearful by using threatening behavior, abuse of animals, verbal aggression or destruction of property.

**Coercion:** Threatening to find someone else if the dating partner doesn't comply with the abuser's wishes or demands. Threats to harm self or others if the dating partner leaves.

**Physical:** Using or threatening to use physically assaultive behaviors such as hitting, shoving, grabbing, slapping, beating, kicking, etc.

**Sexual:** Touching or forcing the victim to engage in unwanted sexual activity.

Source: Michigan.gov/DatingViolence
The State of Texas defines **Domestic Violence** as:

“an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself.”

The State of Texas defines **Dating Abuse** as:

“an act by an individual that is against another individual with whom that person has or has had a dating relationship and that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the individual in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself.”
Use these warning signs of abuse to see if your relationship is going in the wrong direction:

- Checking your cell phone or email without permission
- Constantly putting you down
- Extreme jealousy or insecurity
- Explosive temper
- Isolating you from family or friends
- Making false accusations
- Mood swings
- Physically hurting you in any way
- Possessiveness
- Telling you what to do
- Repeatedly pressuring you to have sex
Most people will end a relationship if their boyfriend or
girlfriend hits them. **MYTH.** Nearly 80% of girls who have
been physically abused in their intimate relationships contin-
ue to date their abuser after the onset of violence.

**Boyfriends and girlfriends sometimes push each other around when they get
angry, but it rarely results in anyone getting seriously hurt.** **MYTH.** Domestic
violence is the number one cause of injury to women between the ages of 15
to 44 in the U.S. It causes more injuries than car accidents, muggings and rapes
combined. Of the women murdered each year in the U. S., 30% are killed by their current or former husband or
boyfriend.

**Domestic violence usually only happens in married couples.** **MYTH.** As many as one-third of all
high school and college-age young people experience violence in an intimate or dating
relationship. Physical abuse is as common among high school and college-age couples as married
couples.

**Relationship abuse happens most often among the poor and people of color.** **MYTH.** Abuse
in relationships happens amongst all classes, races, and cultural groups in society.

**People who are abused often blame themselves for their abuse.** **FACT.** Most people who are abused
blame themselves for causing the violence. However, the fact is that NO ONE is ever to blame for another
person’s violence? violence is always a choice, and the responsibility is 100% with the person who is
violent.

**If a person is really being abused, it is easy just to leave.** **MYTH.** There are many very complicated reasons
why it’s difficult for a person to leave an abusive partner. One very common reason is fear. Women who leave
their abusers are at a 75% greater chance of being killed by the abuser than those who stay.

**Most men who abuse their partner grew up in violent homes.** **FACT.** Men who have witnessed violence
between parents are three times more likely to abuse their own wives and children than children of non
violent parents. The sons of the most violent parents are 1,000 times more likely to become batterers.

**While females can be abusive and abuse happens in same-sex couples too, it is much more common for
males to abuse their female partners.** **FACT.** About 90% of known victims of relationship violence are
females abused by their male partners.

**People who abuse are psychos/crazy.** **MYTH.** Abusers are “normal” people that we encounter in everyday
life. They can be the smartest, quietest, coolest, or the best athlete on campus. What they have in
common is their inability to control their anger and aggressive impulses.

**People abuse their partners because they can’t control their anger.** **MYTH.** People who abuse others are
not usually out of control. They do it to gain power and control over the other person. They often use
tactics besides violence such as threats, intimidation, psychological abuse and isolation from friends or
family to control their partners.
**WHY DO I NEED A SAFETY PLAN?**
Everyone deserves a relationship that is healthy, safe and supportive. If you are in a relationship that is hurting you, it is important for you to know that *the abuse is not your fault*. It is also important for you to start thinking of ways to keep yourself safe from the abuse, whether you decide to end the relationship or not. While you can’t control your partner’s abusive behavior, you *can* take action to keep yourself as safe as possible.

**WHAT IS A SAFETY PLAN?**
A safety plan is a practical guide that helps lower your risk of being hurt by your abuser. It includes information *specific to you and your life* that will help keep you safe. A good safety plan helps you think through lifestyle changes that will help keep you as safe as possible on campus, in the dorms and other places that you go on a daily basis.

**HOW DO I MAKE A SAFETY PLAN?**
Take some time for yourself to go through each section of this safety plan. You can complete the workbook on your own, or you can work through it with someone else that you trust.

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**Keep in Mind:**
In order for this safety plan to work for you, you’ll need to fill in personalized answers, so you can use the information when you most need it.

Once you complete your safety plan, be sure to keep it in an accessible but secure location. You might also consider giving a copy of your safety plan to someone that you trust.

Getting support from someone who has experience working with college students in abusive relationships can be very useful.
So often survivors have had their experiences denied, trivialized, or distorted. Writing is an important avenue for healing because it gives you the opportunity to define your own reality. You can say: This did happen to me. It was that bad. It was not my fault & responsibility. I was—and am—innocent.” *The Courage to Heal* by Ellen Bass & Laura Davis
What is sexual assault?

Sexual assault and abuse is any type of sexual activity that you do not agree to, including:

- Inappropriate touching
- Vaginal, anal, or oral penetration
- Sexual intercourse that you say no to
- Rape
- Attempted rape
- Child molestation

Sexual assault can be verbal, visual, or anything that forces a person to join in unwanted sexual contact or attention. Examples of this are voyeurism (when someone watches private sexual acts), exhibitionism (when someone exposes him/herself in public), incest (sexual contact between family members), and sexual harassment. It can happen in different situations: in the home by someone you know, on a date, or by a stranger in an isolated place.

Rape is a common form of sexual assault. It is committed in many situations — on a date, by a friend or an acquaintance, or when you think you are alone. Educate yourself on “date rape” drugs. They can be slipped into a drink when a victim is not looking. Never leave your drink unattended — no matter where you are. Attackers use date rape drugs to make a person unable to resist assault. These drugs can also cause memory loss so the victim doesn’t know what happened.

Rape and sexual assault are never the victim’s fault — no matter where or how it happens.
In Texas, a Sexual Assault occurs if an actor:

(1) intentionally or knowingly:

(A) causes the penetration of the anus or sexual organ of another person by any means, without that person's consent;

(B) causes the penetration of the mouth of another person by the sexual organ of the actor, without that person's consent; or

(C) causes the sexual organ of another person, without that person's consent, to contact or penetrate the mouth, anus, or sexual organ of another person, including the actor; or

(b) A sexual assault under Subsection is without the consent of the other person if:

(1) the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by the use of physical force or violence;

(2) the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by threatening to use force or violence against the other person, and the other person believes that the actor has the present ability to execute the threat;

(3) the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unconscious or physically unable to resist;

(4) the actor knows that as a result of mental disease or defect the other person is at the time of the sexual assault incapable either of appraising the nature of the act or of resisting it;

(5) the other person has not consented and the actor knows the other person is unaware that the sexual assault is occurring;

(6) the actor has intentionally impaired the other person's power to appraise or control the other person's conduct by administering any substance without the other person's knowledge;

(7) the actor compels the other person to submit or participate by threatening to use force or violence against any person, and the other person believes that the actor has the ability to execute the threat;

(8) the actor is a public servant who coerces the other person to submit or participate;

(9) the actor is a mental health services provider or a health care services provider who causes the other person, who is a patient or former patient of the actor, to submit or participate by exploiting the other person's emotional dependency on the actor;

(10) the actor is a clergyman who causes the other person to submit or participate by exploiting the other person's emotional dependency on the clergyman in the clergyman's professional character as spiritual adviser; or

(11) the actor is an employee of a facility where the other person is a resident, unless the employee and resident are formally or informally married to each other under Chapter 2, Family Code.
**MYTH:** Rape is sex.

**FACT:** Rape is a crime motivated by a need to control, humiliate and harm. Rapists use sexual assault as a weapon to hurt and dominate others.

**MYTH:** Sexual assault is a crime committed by strangers jumping out of bushes or in dark alleys.

**FACT:** In the general community, people who know their victims commit more than 80% of rapes. Among college students, in 94% of cases of sexual assault the perpetrator knows the victim. Sexual assaults often occur in the home of either the perpetrator or victim.

**MYTH:** Only women can be victims of sexual violence.

**FACT:** Although in a majority of cases of reported rape the victims are women, and in fact women are 10 times more likely to be victims of sexual assault than men, about 3% of men have experienced attempted or completed rape in their lifetime.

**MYTH:** If a victim isn't a virgin, it can't be considered rape.

**FACT:** A victim's sexual history has nothing to do with the crime of rape. A victim could even have had consensual sex with the attacker at an earlier time and could still be raped by them.

**MYTH:** Victims of sexual assault often ask to be assaulted by the way they are acting or the way that they dress.

**FACT:** Nobody asks to be sexually assaulted no matter how she/he is dressed or how she/he is acting. The way an individual behaves is her/his choice, and it is never justification for another individual to decide to commit sexual assault.

**MYTH:** The only way a rapist can really force a person to have intercourse is by using a weapon.

**FACT:** A "weapon" such as a knife or gun is just one type of force rapists use to control their victims. More common than knives or guns is the use of verbal abuse, physical force, psychological pressure, intimidation and/or making sure the victim is drunk or drugged so that they don't know what is happening to them.

**MYTH:** People who don't actually fight back physically have not been sexually assaulted.

**FACT:** A person might not fight back for any number of reasons, including feeling it is not safe to do so. This does not mean that the victim is giving consent.

**MYTH:** If a date pays for dinner or a movie, then sex is expected as "pay-back."

**FACT:** Accepting a date for dinner or a movie does not obligate a person to do anything in return.
Male Survivors and LGBTQ Survivors are welcome to free and confidential assistance through RSVP. RSVP staff are compassionate and specially trained to work with these populations.

Male Victimization Myths & Facts
Adapted from a presentation at the 5th International Conference on Incest and Related Problems

**Myth #1 - Boys and men can’t be victims.**
This myth, instilled through masculine gender socialization and sometimes referred to as the "macho image," declares that males, even young boys, are not supposed to be victims or even vulnerable. We learn very early that males should be able to protect themselves. In truth, boys are children - weaker and more vulnerable than their perpetrators - who cannot really fight back. Why? The perpetrator has greater size, strength, and knowledge. This power is exercised from a position of authority, using resources such as money or other bribes, or outright threats - whatever advantage can be taken to use a child for sexual purposes.

**Myth #2 - Most sexual abuse of boys is perpetrated by homosexual males.**
Pedophiles who molest boys are not expressing a homosexual orientation any more than pedophiles who molest girls are practicing heterosexual behaviors. While many child molesters have gender and/or age preferences, of those who seek out boys, the vast majority are not homosexual. They are pedophiles.

**Myth #3 - Boys are less traumatized by the abuse experience than girls.**
While some studies have found males to be less negatively affected, more studies show that long term effects are quite damaging for either sex. Males may be more damaged by society's refusal or reluctance to accept their victimization, and by their resultant belief that they must "tough it out" in silence.

**Myth #5 - Boys abused by males are or will become homosexual.**
While there are different theories about how the sexual orientation develops, experts in the human sexuality field do not believe that premature sexual experiences play a significant role in late adolescent or adult sexual orientation. It is unlikely that someone can make another person a homosexual or heterosexual. Sexual orientation is a complex issue and there is no single answer or theory that explains why someone identifies himself as homosexual, heterosexual or bi-sexual. Whether perpetrated by older males or females, boys’ or girls’ premature sexual experiences are damaging in many ways, including confusion about one’s sexual identity and orientation.

**Common LGBTQ Abuse Myths** ([http://sapac.umich.edu/article/58](http://sapac.umich.edu/article/58)

**Myth:** A woman can’t rape another woman.  
**Reality:** While the majority of perpetrators of sexual assault are male, the idea that woman-on-woman sexual assault does not occur is only a product of gender role stereotypes that encourage the idea that women are never violent. This stereotype can make it less likely that women who were sexually assaulted by another woman will be believed by those around her. It can also make a survivor who has believed that women are nonviolent feel disillusioned that she has experienced violence from a woman.

**Myth:** Bisexuals are kinky anyway, and sexual assault for them is just rough sex that got out of hand.  
**Reality:** Bisexuality reflects a sexual orientation, not sexual practices. Bisexuals, like heterosexuals, practice a wide range of sexual behaviors, and, for bisexuals, like for heterosexuals, rough sex and a sexual assault are two very different things. Because of stereotypes about bisexuals, they, too, may have difficulty being believed about a sexual assault.

**Myth:** When a woman claims domestic abuse by another woman, it is just a catfight. Similarly, when a man claims domestic abuse by another man, it is just two men fighting.  
**Reality:** The idea that women entice men to rape them or that they really want it is also not true. No person deserves to be raped, and no person asks to be raped or wants it. This myth again shows the extent to which sexual assault is sexualized in our society. Women may experience a sexual assault, no matter what they are wearing, and what the victim was wearing in no way makes her/him responsible for the assault.
What do I do if I've been sexually assaulted?

These are important steps to take right away after an assault:

- Get away from the attacker to a safe place as fast as you can. Then call 911 or the police.

Call a friend or family member you trust. You also can call a crisis center or a hotline to talk with a counselor. The RSVP hotline is 936-261-HELP (4357). Feelings of shame, guilt, fear, and shock are normal. It is important to get counseling from a trusted professional.

- Do not wash, comb, or clean any part of your body. Do not change clothes if possible, so that evidence can be collected. Do not touch or change anything at the scene of the assault.

- Go to your nearest hospital emergency room as soon as possible. You need to be examined, treated for any injuries, and screened for possible sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or pregnancy. The doctor will collect evidence using a rape kit for fibers, hairs, saliva, semen, or clothing that the attacker may have left behind.

While at the hospital:

- If you decide you want to file a police report, you or the hospital staff can call the police from the emergency room.

Ask the hospital staff to connect you with RSVP or an off-campus local rape crisis center. The center staff can help you make choices about reporting the attack and getting help through counseling and support groups.
The Sexual Assault Continuum

1. **Are the participants old enough to consent?**
   Each state sets an “age of consent,” which is the minimum age someone must be to have sex. People below this age are considered children and cannot legally agree to have sex. In other words, even if the child or teenager says yes, the law says no.

2. **Do both people have the capacity to consent?**
   States also define who has the mental and legal capacity to consent. Those with diminished capacity — for example, some people with disabilities, some elderly people and people who have been drugged or are unconscious — may not have the legal ability to agree to have sex.

3. **Did both participants agree to take part?** Did someone use physical force to make you have sexual contact with him/her? Has someone threatened you to make you have intercourse with them? If so, it is rape.

*Source RAINN*
“Are you going to live in the dark, locked in here? Afraid to look out, answer the door, leave? Yes, he's out there, and he's clearly not going to leave you alone until one of three things happens: he hurts you and gets arrested, or he makes a mistake and gets arrested, or you stop him.”
— Rachel Caine, *Fall of Night*
The State of Texas defines **Stalking** as:

A person commits an offense [of stalking] if the person, on more than one occasion and pursuant to the same scheme or course of conduct that is directed specifically at another person, knowingly engages in conduct, including following the other person, that:

1. the actor knows or reasonably believes the other person will regard as threatening:
   (A) bodily injury or death for the other person;
   (B) bodily injury or death for a member of the other person's family or household; or
   (C) that an offense will be committed against the other person's property;

2. causes the other person or a member of the other person's family or household to be placed in fear of bodily injury or death or fear that an offense will be committed against the other person's property; and

3. would cause a reasonable person to fear:
   (A) bodily injury or death for himself or herself;
   (B) bodily injury or death for a member of the person's family or household; or
   (C) that an offense will be committed against the person's property.
1. **Myth:** Stalkers are strangers whom the victim has never met.
   **Fact:** 3 in 4 stalking victims are stalked by someone they know.

2. **Myth:** Stalking victims are older adults or small children.
   **Fact:** People between the age of 18 and 24 experience the highest rate of stalking.

3. **Myth:** Stalking is limited following someone in person.
   **Fact:** 1 in 4 victims report being stalked through some form of technology (including e-mail and instant messaging), while 10% of victims report to being monitored through global positioning systems (GPS), video or digital cameras, and or listening devices.

4. **Myth:** Stalking victims are not protected by the law.
   **Fact:** Stalking is a crime under the laws of 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Territories and the Federal government.

5. **Myth:** Stalking isn’t a big deal.
   **Fact:** Stalking may cause anxiety, insomnia and severe depression. Stalking can lead to significant missed time at work. 1 in 7 stalking victims move as a result of their victimization. In extreme cases, stalking may result in homicide.

6. **Myth:** Cyberstalkers are not dangerous.
   **Fact:** If a cyberstalker takes the harassment offline, a person may begin to receive harassing snail mail or phone calls. In addition, the stalker may know where she/he lives.

7. **Myth:** If you ignore stalking, it will go away.
   **Fact:** Stalkers seldom "just stop." In fact, behaviors can turn more and more violent as time goes on. Victims should seek help from advocates, law enforcement, and the courts to intervene and stop the stalking. The sooner action is taken, the greater the chance of stopping the stalking.

8. **Myth:** Stalking is not dangerous.
   **Fact:** Stalking is dangerous. Three out of four women who were murdered by an intimate partner had been previously stalked by the killer.

9. **Myth:** You can’t be stalked by someone you are still dating.
   **Fact:** If your current girlfriend or boyfriend tracks your every move or follows you around in a way that causes you fear, that is stalking.

10. **Myth:** Modern surveillance technology is too expensive and confusing for most stalkers to use.
    **Fact:** Stalkers can buy surveillance software and hardware for as little as $30 and can easily track victims every move on a computer.

11. **Myth:** If you confront the stalker, he/she will go away.
    **Fact:** Stalkers can be unreasonable and unpredictable. Confronting or trying to reason with a stalker can be dangerous.
What do I do if I'm being stalked?

1. **Disconnect.** The first thing one should do is to tell the unrequited person that no further contact of any kind is allowed.
   
a. As early as possible, tell him/her that the relationship is over.

b. Be as firm/assertive and direct as possible.

c. Avoid using tones or phrases that could be misconstrued as implying a second chance or playing hard to get. Oftentimes, when the victim tries to "be nice" and to "spare the feelings" of the person being rejected, the unrequited lover sometimes perceives mixed messages.

d. Be respectful

2. **Discipline** yourself to avoid contact with the stalker: This includes ANY and ALL contact (calling to ask for someone else's phone number, counter-harassing, sending letters back) which could easily be misinterpreted by the stalker.

3. **Documentation** is one of the most important aspects of stalking threat management. Police, prosecutors and Student Conduct Officers need documentation to prove that stalking has taken place. Save all test messages, emails, voice mails and write down dates of all unwanted contact in a journal. The more you save, the stronger the stalking case will be.

*Source: stalkingbehavior.com*
Stalking Defined

There are several signs that are good indicators of stalking behavior. It is also important to consider the intensity of such behaviors.

1. Persistent phone calls despite being told not to contact in any form.

2. Waiting at workplace or in neighborhood.

3. Threats.

4. Manipulative behavior (for example: threatening to commit suicide in order to get a response to such an "emergency" in the form of contact).

5. Sending written messages: letters, emails, graffiti...

6. Sending gifts from the seemingly "romantic" (flowers and/or candy) to the bizarre (dog teeth, a bed pan, a blood soaked feather) (Dietz et al. 1991b).

7. Defamation: The stalker often lies to others about the victim (claims of infidelity, for example).

8. "Objectification": The stalker derogates the victim, reducing him/her to an object -- this allows the stalker the ability to feel angry with the victim without experiencing empathy (Meloy and Gothard, 1995).
For the Friends and Family of Survivors

“A lot of emotional stress that people go through, some people figure out a way to handle it. They have a strong enough support system to keep going and moving forward. And some people, they feel like they don’t have an outlet.

- Terrell Owens
Most of all, friends and family of Sexual Assault, Dating Abuse/Domestic Violence and/or Stalking need to feel believed and supported.

While it is difficult to understand how “something like this” could have happened, it is important to remember that your friend or family member is a victim of a crime. A crime that, more than likely, was perpetrated by someone who they loved, cared about or knew socially. This survivor feels betrayed and violated in the worst possible way.

So what can you do to make the survivor feel supported?

Listen to the story without interruption. Oftentimes, you might be the first person to hear of the abuse, sexual assault or stalking behavior. The survivor needs to trust that you are listening and that you care about what is being said.

Do not judge. It is easy to judge the situation from the outside looking in. Remember the old saying, you never know what you would do unless you are in the situation. Friends and Family, just listen and offer support. Try to stay away from telling them how you would have handled the situation differently.

Never blame the victim/survivor. It is never the victim’s fault that she or he was a victim of a crime. The blame falls only on the shoulders of the abuser/rapist and/or stalker. The words “it’s your fault” or “if you hadn’t done “x”, then this wouldn’t have happened”, should never be said.

Believe the survivor. Often, survivors are so traumatized by her/his experience with abuse, sexual assault and/or stalking that it is difficult to tell her/his story. Simply because the survivor has a hard time telling the story or remembers details of the crime at different times, doesn’t mean that the survivor is not telling the truth. Believe the survivor. Believe her/his story. Believe that you can help.

Encourage the survivor to get help!
Do I Have to Report What’s Happened to Me?

NO! Victims of dating abuse, sexual assault and/or stalking are not obligated to report these crimes to law enforcement, the Student Conduct Office or to a counselor. However, Student Affairs encourages survivors to report sexual assault, dating abuse and stalking to assist in the healing process. Some survivors have even indicated that reporting the crime was empowering for them.

Should you decide to make a report, you have several options:

**Student Conduct Office Reports:**
Victims have the right to make a report to The Student Conduct Office. This Office determines whether a person is responsible or not responsible for violating the prohibited behavior outlined within the PVAMU Student Code of Conduct. Students found “Responsible” for code violations are subject to a variety of sanctions including (but not limited to): financial aid and registration holds, restrictions, warnings, letter of reprimand, probation, suspension and expulsion.

**Law Enforcement/Criminal Reports:**
Victims have the right to make a criminal report to law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement reports initiate the criminal investigation process and may result in formal criminal charges being filed on behalf of the State of Texas.

**Title IX Reports:**
Victims have the right to exercise their Title IX rights and report to the Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will then launch a “fair and equitable” investigation to determine the veracity of the allegations.

**RSVP and Student Counseling Services Reports:**
Victims who choose not to make a formal report but still want to talk to someone confidentially about the crime have access to The Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Program (RSVP) staff and the staff at Student Counseling Services. Both programs are on campus resources that provide victims/survivors with emotional support. RSVP also provides educational advocacy, medical, court and police accompaniment and assists victims with navigating the Student Conduct, law enforcement and Title IX reporting processes should she/he decide to make a formal report.

**Anonymous Reports:**
You may choose to file an anonymous report through the Anonymous Reporting form—which can be found on the PVAMU website/RSVP or through the law enforcement Tipline at 936.261.2222.

Please keep in mind that if you decide to file a formal report, you may have to repeat your story to several people. Although each office will do all it can to maintain the victim’s confidentiality and privacy, it would be impossible to conduct a thorough investigation without obtaining all of the facts. However, Student Counseling Services and RSVP must maintain your confidentiality unless certain exceptions apply.
The PVAMU Student Code of Conduct applies to all currently enrolled students of Prairie View A&M University. **PVAMU prohibits Endangerment, Stalking and all forms of Sexual Misconduct:**

**G. Endangerment** is any form of physical abuse. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Fighting and/or physical violence toward another person or group.

- Action(s) that endanger the health safety or welfare of self or others

- Interference with the freedom of another person or group to move about in a lawful manner.

- Threatening or intimidating behavior. If at any time students feel threatened or intimidated, they should report to the proper authorities.

**M. Harassment (section 3) Stalking** is nonconsensual communication, including face-to-face, telephone calls, voice messages, electronic mail, written letters/notes, unwanted gifts etc...

**X. Sexual Misconduct** is any act of a sexual nature perpetrated against an individual without consent or when an individual is unable to freely give consent regardless of personal relationship.

For additional information, please review the Student Code of Conduct online at [https://www.pvamu.edu/sa/student-conduct/conduct-code/](https://www.pvamu.edu/sa/student-conduct/conduct-code/)
The PVAMU Department of Public Safety works closely with victims who want to initiate criminal charges. The chart below outlines the criminal justice process.
What is Title IX?

Before Title IX
Making sexual innuendos, calling people sexually charged names, spreading rumors about sexual activity, or touching someone inappropriately used to be dismissed as "boys will be boys" type of behavior at best, and rude or crude at worst.

Since Title IX
Sexual harassment in education includes any unwanted and unwelcome sexual behavior that significantly interferes with a student's access to educational opportunities. The Supreme Court has confirmed that schools have an obligation under Title IX to prevent and address harassment against students, regardless of whether the harassment is perpetrated by peers, teachers, or other school officials.

Why Title IX Is Still Critical
Sexual harassment in schools is still commonplace -- for girls and for boys. Here are some sobering statistics:

- Eight in 10 students experience some form of harassment during their school years, and more than 25% of them experience it often.
- Girls are more likely than boys to experience sexual harassment (56% versus 40%), but boys today are more likely to be harassed than boys were in 1993.
- Girls are more likely than boys to say that sexual harassment caused them to not want to go to school, change the way they go home from school, and have trouble sleeping.

Typical harassment complaints still include: making sexual comments, jokes, gestures, or looks; claiming that a person is gay or lesbian; spreading sexual rumors about a person; touching, grabbing or pinching someone in a sexual way; intentionally brushing up against someone in a sexual way; and flashing or "mooning" someone.

If you feel that you have been sexually harassed or have been a victim of sexual misconduct, contact the PVAMU Title IX Coordinator at 936-261-2123
Legal Remedies for Survivors
What are my legal rights as a survivor of dating abuse/domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking?

**Protective Orders.**

**What is a Protective Order?**

A protective order is a civil court order issued to prevent continuing acts of family violence.

Family violence is basically defined as any act by one member of a family or household intended to physically harm another member, a serious threat of physical harm, or the abuse of a child.

Family includes blood relatives or relatives by marriage, former spouses, parents (married or not) of the same child, foster parents and foster children, or any member or former member of a household (people living in the same house, related or not).

**How Can a Protective Order Help?**

A protective order may prohibit the offender from:

- committing further acts of family violence
- harassing or threatening the victim, either directly or indirectly by communicating the threat through another person
- going to or near a school or day-care center that a child protected under the order attends

In some situations, a protective order may also include orders to: prohibit transfer or disposal of property, establish possession and visitation of a child, pay child or spousal support for a period not to exceed one year, attend mandatory counseling, vacate the residence or other specified property, if certain conditions are met.

These additional provisions are not criminally enforceable. A person who violates them is not immediately arrested, but may be taken to civil court, found in contempt, fined and jailed.

*Source Texas Attorney General*
What is Crime Victim Compensation?

Victims of violence and their families must deal with the emotional, physical, and financial aftermath of crime. The Texas Crime Victims' Compensation Fund helps victims and their families when they have no other means of paying for the financial cost of crime.

Basic Qualification Requirements

Residency

- The crime must occur in Texas to a Texas resident or a United States resident, or
- the crime must involve a Texas resident who becomes a victim in another state or country that does not have crime victims' compensation benefits for which the victim would be eligible.

Reporting the Crime

The crime must be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency within a reasonable period of time, but not so late as to interfere with or hamper the investigation and prosecution of the crime.

Filing for Compensation (TCCP, Art.56.37.)

You must file the application within three years from the date of the crime. The time may be extended for good cause, including the age of the victim or the physical or mental incapacity of the victim.

Cooperation (TCCP, Art.56.45.)

A claim may be denied or reduced if the claimant or victim has not cooperated with the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Source Texas Attorney General
What is Crime Victim Compensation?

Who May Qualify (TCCP, Art.56.32.)

- An innocent victim of crime who suffers physical and/or emotional harm or death
- an authorized individual acting on behalf of a victim
- a person who legally assumes the obligations or voluntarily pays certain expenses related to the crime on behalf of the victim
- a dependent of a victim
- an immediate family member or household members related by blood or marriage who require psychiatric care or counseling as a result of the crime
- an intervenor who goes to the aid of the victim or a peace officer
  a peace officer, fire fighter, or individual whose employment includes the duty of protecting the public

What Crimes Are Covered (TCCP, Art.56.32.(4))

Crimes involving "criminally injurious conduct," which is defined as conduct that occurs or is attempted, poses a substantial threat of personal injury or death and is, or would be, punishable by fine, imprisonment or death. This includes sex offenses, kidnapping, aggravated robbery, assaultive offenses, arson, homicide and other violent crimes in which the victim suffers physical or emotional harm or death.

Who Is Not Eligible

Benefits may be reduced or denied if the behavior of the victim contributed to the crime.

Benefits shall be denied if the victim or claimant:
- knowingly or willingly participated in the crime
- is the offender or accomplice of the offender
- was incarcerated in a penal institution at the time of the crime
- knowingly or intentionally submits false or forged information to the attorney general

Source Texas Attorney General
# A Survivor's Contacts

## On-Campus Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Affairs</td>
<td>936.261.3555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Conduct Office</td>
<td>936.261.3524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title IX Officer</td>
<td>936.261.2123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Counseling Services</td>
<td>936.261.3564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie View A&amp;M Campus Police</td>
<td>4911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVAMU Tip Line</td>
<td>936.261.2222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Prairie View Police Department</td>
<td>936.867.3521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waller County District Attorney’s Office</td>
<td>936.261.7718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship &amp; Sexual Violence Prevention Program</td>
<td>936.261.1468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSVP 24 Hour Hotline</td>
<td>936.261.HELP(4357)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focusing Families</td>
<td>979.826.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katy Assistance Ministries</td>
<td>281.391.4504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston Area Women’s Center</td>
<td>713.528.2121</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## National Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Domestic Violence Hotline</td>
<td>800.799 SAFE(7233)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Sexual Assault Hotline</td>
<td>800.656.HOPE(4673)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*To Make an Anonymous Report of Sexual Misconduct, visit [www.pvamu/rsvp](http://www.pvamu/rsvp)*
The Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Program (RSVP)
226 Owens-Franklin Health Center
Prairie View, Texas 77446
936.261.1468
24-hour Helpline 936-261.HELP
www.pvamu.edu/rsvp
rsvp@pvamu.edu