

## Resources

If you have questions about:

- food,
- clothing,
- shelter,
- crisis mental health services,
- medical needs,
- school attendance,
- day care,

please contact 2-1-1 for further information.

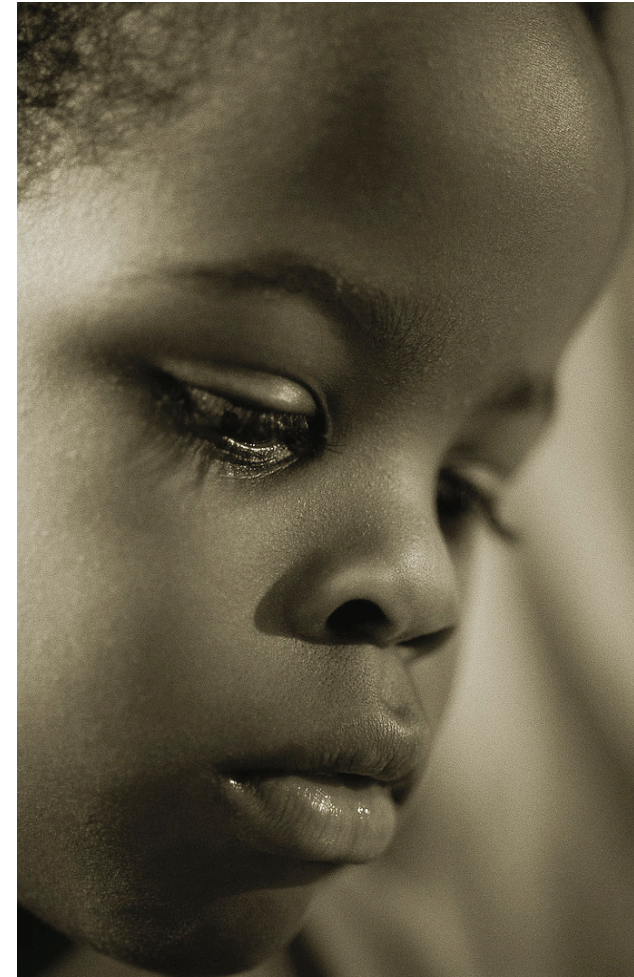


Texas Statewide Automated Victim Notification System (SAVNS) provides the following to crime victims and other concerned citizens over the telephone or via the internet at VINELink.

- 24-hour access to offender custody or case information
- Automatic notification to registered users of a change in offender custody or case status

Texas SAVNS provides victims and concerned members of the community with up-to-date information about offenders' county jail custody and court status, 24/7/365 via a single statewide toll-free telephone number (1-877-TX4-VINE).  
(877) 894-8463

This brochure provided courtesy of the  
Travis County Sheriff's Office  
Victim Services Unit  
5555 Airport Blvd.  
Austin, Texas 78752  
(512) 854-9709



## CHILD SENSITIVE ARRESTS: A Guide for Caregivers

Case # \_\_\_\_\_

**Travis County Sheriff's Office  
Victim Services Unit**

5555 Airport Blvd.  
Austin, Texas 78752  
(512) 854-9709



This brochure provides information on what may be expected after an arrest.

(Please keep in mind that every child reacts in an individual manner and that the ages presented are a guide.)

## Common Responses

### Birth-2 years

Crying, biting, throwing objects, thumb-sucking, and agitated behavior

### Ages 2 to 6

Focus may be on their immediate life, they may believe that what they think about something can cause it to happen

### Ages 6 to 10

Disruption in routine may lead to a disruption in a child's sense of identity; reenactment and play are common ways to cope; they may be more aware of right and wrong

### Ages 10-14

May talk about physical complaints: nausea, headaches, problems sleeping; may experience wide mood swings; may begin to distrust or challenge information from adults; may be sensitive to broken promises; may express their feelings through plays, poetry, and music

### Ages 13 to 18

Behavior may be inconsistent, risk-taking behavior may increase, eating and sleeping disorders may develop, may create their own symbols, activities, and words to cope with their situation.

In general, children tend to focus on what is upsetting them in short time periods and then return to everyday activities.

## What May Help

### Seeking and relying on help from others

Resilient children gravitate towards people who seem to provide stability and comfort.

### Retreat into fantasy

Children often use fantasy or imagination to escape from reality.

### Education and school

Some children cope well if they view the event as something to overcome. School can provide a welcome relief because it is structured and children know what is expected.

### Spirituality

If they have a belief in God or other spirits children may cope better. They may rely upon this belief to help them when they feel alone and afraid.

### Establish Safety and Security

Give and receive hugs. Help children get enough sleep. Talk to them about ways to be safe and who they can count on. Give physical comfort items.

### Prepare children for the future

Encourage the establishment of routines. Talk to children about their situation, including what can and can't be done. Help them take time to think about their future. Try to help children stay in touch with friends.



Most importantly, children respond best when given factual information about the situation and decisions that are made. The following is some basic information about the criminal justice system so that you can prepare for the children in your care.

## Arrest Process

### Magistration

Magistration is conducted 24 hours per day and is usually completed within 4-6 hours. During this court appearance, the judge advises the arrested person of their charges and sets a bond amount, if appropriate.

### Bond

Bond is an amount of money that can be paid to allow someone to leave jail until their scheduled court date.

### Misdemeanor Arrests

Misdemeanor cases are prosecuted by the County Attorney's Office and are divided into the following:

- **Class C Misdemeanor:** Fine only;
- **Class B Misdemeanor:** Up to a \$2,000 fine and 180 days in jail;
- **Class A Misdemeanor:** Up to a \$4,000 fine and a year in jail.

### Felony Arrests

Felony cases are prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office and are divided into the following:

- **State Jail Felony:** Up to two years in prison without parole;
- **3rd Deg. Felony:** Two-ten years prison;
- **2nd Deg. Felony:** Two-20 years prison;
- **1st Deg. Felony:** Five-99 years (life) prison;
- **Capital Felony:** A life sentence without parole or the death penalty.

Information is available on the Travis County Sheriff's Office website at [www.tcsheriff.org/corrections/jailinfo.html](http://www.tcsheriff.org/corrections/jailinfo.html) with answers to questions about the jail, visitation and phones.