



TEXAS RIOGRANDE
**LEGAL
AID** | *Justice
begins
here.*

UVALDE TOGETHER LEGAL & FINANCIAL TOOLKIT

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc. extends its deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones, were injured, and/or were traumatized in the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School on May 24, 2022.

During this time of grief, you may be faced with issues for which you need help. Our attorneys and partner organizations can provide free legal services, information, advice, and assistance with many of these issues.

Anyone in the Uvalde community who needs legal help can contact **TRLA at the Uvalde Together Resiliency Center or at **833-329-8752 (833-329-TRLA)**.**

- If you do not have a doctor or do not have insurance, you can seek care at the Community Health Development (830) 278-5604 or the Center for Community Wellness in Uvalde (830) 278-3765.
- If you need someone to talk to you can contact **888-690-0799** a 24/7 hotline for mental health assistance available to anyone in the community.

TRLA CAN HELP WITH MANY TYPES OF PROBLEMS INCLUDING:

MEDICAL:

- If you are having trouble finding treatment or your insurance refuses to pay for treatment.
- If you or your loved one is about to be discharged from the hospital and you have questions about long term care, discharge instructions, or medically necessary treatments, medications, and services.
- If you have questions or concerns about the how to get and/or afford long term care, we have attorneys who specialize in Medicaid, Medicare, and Long Term care and we are working with pro bono attorneys to assist with trusts and Medicaid planning to preserve your eligibility for long term care.
- If you are unable to return to your regular life and require long term care and/or medical treatment, we may be able to counsel and assist you in getting the help you need.
- If your insurance is refusing to pay a bill or is not paying enough, you may have options.
- If you did not have insurance at the time of the tragedy and you have been confronted by billing offices from medical providers..
- The Texas Crime Victim's Compensation fund will pay medical bills associated with injuries sustained in the crime. If you need help with this process, call **TRLA** or the Texas Attorney General's Office can assist with applications <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/crime-victims/crime-victims-compensation-program>.
- Keep records of the medical assistance you received for mental or physical injuries as a result of the shooting.

FUNERAL and PROBATE/ESTATE ISSUES:

- If the State of Texas Crime Victim's Compensation refuses to assist with funeral expenses.
- For help with handling the estate needs (wills/probate/Special Needs Trusts/Powers-of-Attorney) call us.

IMMIGRATION

- If you are interested in finding out if you are eligible for any immigration relief as the result of a crime.

EDUCATION:

- Children are entitled to protections under state and federal law that will allow special accommodations and considerations if their special needs are not met by the school they attend this Summer or in the Fall.
- If your child is required to attend a school that is not suitable for them or do not get the help they need, please contact us.

FOOD, HOUSING, AND OTHER FINANCIAL NEEDS:

- If you are having trouble paying for food and/or shelter apply for help.
- If you need help applying for, or appealing the denial of, SNAP (food stamps).
- If you have not been able to work as a result of the tragedy and are not able to pay your rent or mortgage (house payment), you may have legal options.

Victim funds

- There are several local, regional, and national funds collecting donations. At the present time, a distribution mechanism is being evaluated for the funds. **TRLA** can notify everyone as soon as it is decided. Please contact **TRLA** if you would like us to notify you when the claim process is established.
- **Please keep all records that prove that you were at the school or somehow directly affected by the shooting and that you have suffered a physical or mental injury, loss or expense because of it. Records include the names of your medical providers, medical records, screenshots of messages, etc.**
- **It is possible that to qualify for the victim fund, you may be required to file a police report. For local residents who want to file a police report:** Call 3-1-1 and file a report telephonically if you are a victim of the shooting. To file a report at an area command center near you or at the Records and Fingerprint Bureau located at Uvalde PD Headquarters.

Employment (for more details, see www.trla.org/employment)

- You may have the right to **leave from work or other accommodations** (changes at work) if you have a health condition or disability (including mental health conditions, such as PTSD).
- If you lost your job but can work and are looking for work, you may have the right to **unemployment benefits** if you had to leave work for your health condition or your minor child's health condition, if you were fired (but not for misconduct), or if you had to leave for other qualifying reasons.
- If your employer carries **short-term or long-term disability insurance**, you may have the right to some income if you cannot work because of an injury or illness. Read your employer's policy and follow its directions to apply for disability payments.
- If you were **injured at work (including mental trauma)**, you may have the right to workers' compensation (income benefits if you cannot work and medical treatment). For info, call Kim Shute (Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC)) at 800-252-7031, extension 32220 or email kim.shute@tdi.texas.gov or visit: <https://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/employee/help.html>

BEWARE OF FRAUD - There are many people who prey on people in crisis including:

- Predatory lenders offering loans at outrageous interest rates
- People asking for payment to fill out applications for assistance. Do not pay for help to complete a form.
- Scam charities trying to steal your identity and personal information

DO:

- Get a **FREE** honest legal opinion **BEFORE** you sign anything by contacting **TRLA** if you need help.
- Contact the Texas Attorney General's office at (800) 621-0508 or www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/contact-us to report fraud.

TEXAS RIOGRANDE LEGAL AID

Offices in:

Alpine, Austin, Beeville, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Edinburg, El Paso, Floresville, Harlingen, Jourdanton, Laredo, Mercedes, Nashville TN, Rio Grande City, San Antonio, Sinton, Victoria

Intake 956.996.8752 | www.trla.org