

2025-26 FREE LEGAL SERVICES & INFORMATION IN TEXAS

Many people do not know where to begin, so below is a list of organizations in Texas. It may not be 100% accurate.

In Texas, you are NOT entitled to a court-appointed attorney UNLESS you are looking at jail time.

Do NOT trust AI answers on websites like Google! AND beware of sponsored ads on sites like Google – many may be outside the country & if you pay money you may not be able to recover it if they are scammers!

www.texaslawhelp.org – FREE forms and information for TX residents – for any TX legal question – huge site, It is a designed to help you represent yourself in court - but is very helpful when seeking legal answers on a variety of topics.

Texas State Law Library – Self Help Resources - <https://www.sll.texas.gov/self-help/> - Legal information, legal hotlines, referral sources, forms, etc.

Texas Young Lawyers Association – <https://tyla.org> – free booklet's online

YouTube videos by Texas lawyers – such as - The Law Office of Bryan Fagan or Attorney Sean Palmer

You might also look on-line for articles & YouTube videos by Michelle O'Neil. <https://www.dallastxdivorce.com>

Just Google the topic you are interested in (such as “child custody”) and “Texas attorney” – don't look outside of Texas!

To find a lawyer in your area – Google “(subject) attorney” & your zip code – I don't advise using the “sponsored” listings

Pro Se Divorce Handbook “Representing Yourself in Family Court” produced by the Texas Young Lawyers Association & the State Bar of Texas – free booklet

Denise Young, J.D. in Houston, Texas has 2 new websites for Texas residents – www.howtotexasdivorce.com and www.howtotexas.legal – both these sites are “under construction” and she's adding & revising the information. She is also associated with MarbleLaw for unbundled legal services.

<https://www.marblelaw.com> – a new legal service for Texans that claims to offer legal services unbundled.

<https://www.texasdivorceclass.com/contact> - this is a law firm in Austin that claims to offer services unbundled.

Mac-Arthur Pierre-Louis in Houston, Texas has www.instantmediators.com or <https://lmipodcast.com/>

To ask a FREE Texas legal question -- www.texas.freelegalanswers.org OR www.avvo.com – post a question and see if any attorneys in your county respond – ignore attorneys from other states that are not licensed in Texas

State Bar of Texas Lawyer Referral Service & Information - www.texasbar.com/lrisattorney -- 800-252-9690

They offer you a discounted consultation with an attorney in your area -- Cost - \$20 for a 20-minute consultation

Through the Lawyer Referral Information Service, a person may have a brief consultation with an attorney for \$20. At the end of the consultation, the attorney and individual may discuss possible representation and price structure.

State Bar of Texas – www.texasbar.com -- Look on their website for resources for Texas residents.

Their websites lists all Texas attorneys & if there have ever been disciplined or been disbarred for their “bad” behavior.

Before you hire a lawyer, make sure that they are currently licensed in Texas to practice law.

It also lists all pro bono (free) resources in Texas & there are free publications on their website

If your attorney “disappears” you can use their website to try to locate them.

They also have forms for grievance against your attorney.

Local Legal Hotlines – Free Advice Over the Phone – other bar associations in Texas may offer this free service - For a complete listing visit <https://www.sll.texas.gov/self-help/where-to-go-for-help/legal-hotlines/> or search Texas Legal Hotlines

Child Support, Visitation and Custody Issues

Get help from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) – Although the OAG cannot represent you, the OAG may be able to help you get a custody, visitation, child support (including back child support) and medical support order. The OAG represents TX taxpayers & their primary goal is to collect child support. For information about opening a case with the OAG, call 1-800-252-8014 or visit the Texas Attorney General Child Support Division website <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs/welcome-to-the-child-support-division>. Apply online at <https://childsupport.oag.state.tx.us>

Dispute Resolution Centers – www.txcourts.gov -- Free or low-income mediation – centers throughout Texas

3 Mediation Professional Groups in Texas

- Association of Attorney Mediators (AAM)
- Texas Association of Mediators (TAM)
- Texas Mediator Credentialing Association (TMCA)

Veteran's Care Guide - This guide is designed to help veterans and/or their surviving spouses determine their eligibility, explain how to apply for benefits and cover the various veteran care options. <https://www.seniorliving.org/research/veteran-care/>

Texas Veterans Legal Assistance Project Tel: 1-800-622-2520, Option 2 - Areas of Law: Family law, Employment, Housing, Consumer protection, Bankruptcy, Probate, Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, Military Discharge Upgrades. Good to Know: This is a free, statewide legal services hotline.

American Civil Liberties Union of Texas – (713) 942-8146 - <https://action.aclu.org/legal-intake/texas-legal-intake>

Areas of Law: Discrimination, Election and Voting, Freedom Speech, Freedom of Religion, Immigration Rights, LGBT Rights, Privacy, Police Practices, Jail and Prison Conditions, and other issues of fair treatment by government.

Texas Advocacy Project - Tel: 800-374-HOPE or 800-374-4673 – www.texasadvocacyproject.org -

Areas of Law: Domestic Violence, Family Law, Sexual Assault. This is a free statewide legal service for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault & stalking. They offer a legal aid hotline and direct legal services.

Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts -- Tel: (713) 526-4876

Areas of Law: Non-Profit Arts Organization Incorporation, Contract Drafting, Negotiation and Review, Estate Planning for Artists, Copyright, Trademark, IP, Licensing, Arts-Related Landlord/Tenant Issues, Demand Letters, Dispute Resolution / Arts Mediation.

Elder Law Resources - National Attorney Elder Law Association – www.naela.org OR National Elder Law Foundation www.NELF.org

TEXAS FAMILY PRACTICE MANUAL - The set of form books that all Texas family law attorneys use is the TEXAS FAMILY PRACTICE MANUAL. It contains most forms an attorney ever needs. These are master forms that need to be modified for each individual case. You cannot merely print it out and use it. The forms are detailed, and many people find them intimidating.

Law schools in Texas & many have clinics for low-income residents

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| 1. Baylor Law School | 6. Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law |
| 2. Southern Methodist University- Dedman School of Law | 7. Texas Tech University School of Law |
| 3. South Texas College of Law Houston | 8. University of Houston Law Center |
| 4. St. Mary's University School of Law | 9. University of Texas School of Law |
| 5. Texas A & M University School of Law | 10. UNT Dallas College of Law |

Mental health emergency – Suicide & Crisis Lifeline– dial “988” or go to 988lifeline.org

Texas Council on Family Violence - <https://tcfv.org> or 800-525-1978

Texas Health & Human Services has a lot of information about domestic violence, birth certificates, marriages, divorces & public assistance program and agencies in different cities that offer support. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/>

24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline – 800-799-SAFE (7233) or www.thehotline.org

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse – AVDA – <https://avda.org/>

Texas Family Code – on the internet for free

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/> - This is the code book that the Texas Legislature revises every 2 years. This is the law that Texas family judges agree to follow when they take their oath of office.

Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee - Dir. Tel: (512) 427-1341

P.O. Box 12487

Austin, TX 78711-2487

If you think you have been “scammed” by someone pretending to be an attorney, contact this organization. You might also contact your local Office of the Texas Attorney General or the District Attorney’s office of your county. Unfortunately, there are evil people (all over the world) that claim that they can help Texas residents. They then take your money and disappear. FYI - Notaries are NOT attorneys in Texas. A notary merely swears that they checked the ID of the person signing.

2 Paid Sites to help you get organized:

<https://splitsmart.com>

<https://divorcesavvy.com>

Co-parenting communication Tools –

www.ourfamilywizard.com – you pay for this service

www.talkingparents.com - free

www.appclose.com – free – popular with most TX judges

Drinking & driving issues –

www.soberlink.com

Signing legal documents –

www.dochub.com or www.docusign.com

There are several other similar sites - but these are 2 popular ones

Halfway Driving apps.

www.meetways.com

www.custodychange.com

The State of Texas also has several associations of criminal defense attorneys organized at the city or county level including:

- Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association;
- San Antonio Criminal Defense Lawyer Association;
- Tarrant County Criminal Defense Lawyer Association;
- Austin Criminal Defense Lawyer Association;
- Collins County Criminal Defense Lawyer Association
- Fort Bend County Criminal Defense Attorney Association;
- Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyer Association;
- Dallas Criminal Defense Lawyer Association; and
- Galveston Criminal Defense Lawyer Association

Texas Trial Lawyers Association – www.ttla.com/

Founded in 1949, the Texas Trial Lawyers Association is a non-profit organization of plaintiff’s attorneys who meet certain membership criteria. The TTLA provides information, services and continuing education seminars to its members.

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA) – <http://www.tcdla.com/>

As the largest state association for criminal defense attorneys in the United States, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA) strives to provide support, a more unified voice before the Texas legislature, and quality continuing education opportunities to its members. The organization has more than 3200 members which include many of the top criminal defense lawyers in Texas.

Texas Board of Legal Specialization -- www.tbls.org

The Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS) is the largest single-state certification program for lawyers in the United States. TBLS also has the greatest percentage of board-certified specialists in the United States. The Texas Board of Legal Specialization may also accredit organizations that are also accredited by the American Bar Association to certify attorneys as specialists.

Other legal organizations in Texas include:

- Dallas Bar Association
- Houston Bar Association
- San Antonio Bar Association
- ACLU of Texas
- Advocacy Incorporated
- Legal Aid of Northwest Texas
- Lone Star Legal Aid
- Texas Accountants & Lawyers for the Arts
- Texas Legal Services Center (State Support)
- Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

CHILD CUSTODY JOURNAL – sold on Amazon for under \$10

Elderly Abuse/Neglect – 800-252-5400 - https://www.dfps.texas.gov/adult_protection/

Child Abuse – CPS - https://www.dfps.texas.gov/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp - no longer confidential

Rape Abuse & Incest National Network – 800-656-HOPE (4673)

National Dating Violence Helpline – 866-331-9474 or www.loveisrespect.org

Crime Victim's Compensation – 800-983-9933

NATIONAL SUICIDE & CRISIS PREVENTION LIFETIME – ANYWHERE IN THE US – CALL OR TEXT “988”

Texas Legal Services Center - The Texas Legal Services Center is a nonprofit law firm that provides free representation and assistance to Texans who qualify for their services based on income or other criteria. They also sponsor various projects that assist low-income and disadvantaged Texans who need legal help: a legal hotline for Texans who are 60 years of age or older or who receive Medicare, a CPS family helpline for questions related to Child Protective Services, and legal hotline for veterans. In addition to these services, the TLSC also trains and assists poverty law advocates and helps maintain Texas Law Help.

National Domestic Violence Hotline – 800-799-7233 – available 24/7 - Essential tools and confidential support to help survivors of domestic violence live their lives free of abuse.

Love is Respect Website - 866.331.9474 – available 24/7 - Information, support, and advocacy for young people between the ages of 13 and 26 who have questions or concerns about their romantic relationships.

Texas Advocacy Project - 800.374.4673 - Mon-Fri 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM - Free legal services and access to the justice system for domestic violence survivors.

WomensLaw.org - 24 Hour Email Hotline - Legal resources for victims of abuse, and an **Email Hotline** providing information related to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking – English & Spanish

Parenting Classes required by some judges – co-parentingintothefuture.com OR texasparentclass.com – Spanish & English & on-line