

Family Law Resources

GENERAL LEGAL INFORMATION

- ❑ **Travis County Law Library Self-Help Center** <http://www.traviscountylawlibrary.org> 512.854.8677. Travis County Civil and Family Courts Facility, 1700 Guadalupe Street, Austin. Law library services, legal resources and information, free self-help forms for divorce & other family law matters. Staff attorneys are available to assist parties with UNCONTESTED family cases in Travis County only. Staff attorneys do not represent either side. All library services are free.
 - In person: Talk with a law librarian, pick up forms, sign up for online case review (no walk-in available), research using print collection, and research using public access computers (30-minute limit).
 - Remote Services: Talk with a law librarian (M-F 8am-5pm), Request forms to be sent to you (referencematerial@traviscountytexas.gov), and [Sign up for online case review](#).
- ❑ **First Call for Help • 211** Call 2-1-1 for free information and referrals to health and human service agencies, nonprofit organizations and other services.
- ❑ **Texas Law Help** www.texaslawhelp.org One-stop resource for free legal information in multiple languages. Free self-help legal forms are available for download, with instructions in English and Spanish.
- ❑ **Telephone Access to Justice** 512.374.2777 or 888.988.9996. A service of Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid www.trla.org. Callers are screened for eligibility for free legal services in civil legal matters, including family, consumer, housing, and public benefits. No criminal matters. The hotline takes calls M– F, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.
- ❑ **Texas Legal Services Center** - www.tlsc.org – 800.622.2520. Administers a variety of legal service programs for eligible individuals. Lawyer-staffed legal line for Texans who have a disability or are over 60 years of age. Most services are available at no cost to eligible applicants.
- ❑ **MATCH Program** - 512.472.8303 or 866.303.8303 (ask for "MATCH" program). Reduced-fee private attorneys for those who meet income eligibility guidelines. Limited to family law, guardianship, and simple wills. Consultation is \$20 for the first 30 minutes; reduced hourly rate thereafter. No online referrals. Legal services are not free.
- ❑ **Lawyer Referral Service** – <https://austinlrs.com/> 512.472.8303 (Austin) or 866.303.8303. Private attorney referrals online or by telephone. Legal services are not free.
- ❑ **State Bar of Texas** www.texasbar.com - Online referrals to private attorneys, statewide searchable database of lawyers licensed to practice law in Texas, free publications on various legal topics. Legal services are not free.
- ❑ **Texas Legal Answers** - <https://texas.freelegalanswers.org/> Register and post legal questions online. Note: This service may not be able to answer all legal questions.

CHILD SUPPORT, MEDICAL SUPPORT, PATERNITY

- ❑ **Office of Attorney General of Texas-Child Support Division (OAG)** - 800.252.8014. Represents Texas in child support matters. Helps with locating an absent parent, establishing paternity, establishing, and enforcing child support and medical support, modification of child support. Apply online https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs/parents/apply_services or in person at CS Austin Central Office - 512.441.6162; CS Austin North Office - 512.339.1135
- ❑ **Travis County Domestic Relations Office (DRO)** <https://www.traviscountycourt.org> 512.894.5656. Travis Co. only. Enforcement of visitation and child support orders issued by Travis County courts.
- ❑ **Texas Access and Visitation Hotline** – www.txaccess.org - 866.292.4636. Office of the Attorney General Child Support Division toll-free telephone hotline with basic legal information, education, and resources on access, visitation, custody, paternity establishment, child support process, modifications, and enforcements. Open M-F from 1pm – 5pm.

ABUSE, NEGLECT, CPS

- **Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS or "CPS")**
 - To report abuse or neglect: 800.252.5400, www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp
 - Status/info about your CPS case: Contact your CPS caseworker.
 - CPS questions & complaints: 800.720.7777, www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/Questions_and_Complaints/default.asp
- **Office of Parental Representation** - 512.854.7305 - Travis Co. only - Advocacy for parents whose children have been removed by CPS. Must have an open case and be financially eligible. www.traviscountytexas.gov/criminal-justice/parental-representation

NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS

- **Texas Access** – www.txaccess.org 866.292.4636, M-F, 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Attorney staffed hotline, legal forms and help for noncustodial parents for visitation and custody issues.
- **Travis County Domestic Relations Office (DRO)** - *Travis County only*. www.co.travis.tx.us/dro. 512.894.5656. Enforcement of Travis County visitation and child support orders.

NONPARENT CAREGIVERS AND ADOPTION

- **Texas Attorney General-Child Support Division** <http://www.oag.state.tx.us/cs> 800.252.8014. Help with child support and custody if the child has lived with you full-time for more than 6 months.
- **Texas Kincare Primer 2023** – Written guide for nonparent caregivers of minor children in English and Spanish. Free for review and download at https://texaslawhelp.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/2023_kincare_primer_rev_20230511_0.pdf
- **Adoption Resources** - Adopt Us Kids <https://www.adoptuskids.org/?r>: Information about adoption.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT

NOTE - Clear your phone and/or web browser history after contacting these organizations.

Protective Orders- An order signed by a judge to protect individuals & families from domestic abuse & violence. The order requires an abuser to follow certain rules or face legal consequences. Rules can include staying away from your family, payment of child support, and family visitation under supervision. Most protective orders are for a period of up to 2 years, but some are for a longer period depending on the facts. ***If you have experienced violence, apply right away. A delay can affect whether your application for a protective order can be accepted.***

- **Travis County Attorney's Office** – Applications accepted through phone screenings only. Apply by calling 512.854.4163. Must have a valid government issued ID; valid address of the person you need protection from.
- **Sexual Assault Resources**
 - LASSA -Legal Aid for Survivors of Sexual Assault 1.800.991.5153 <https://www.tlsc.org/lassa> Free legal help and information for people who have experienced sexual assault, including housing, consumer, family, employment and other legal matters.
 - RAINN - Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, <https://www.rainn.org/>
 - TAP-Texas Advocacy Project sexual assault legal hotline: 888.296.SAFE or 512.225.9290 in Austin.
- **Family Crisis Centers** - Help with protective orders, safety planning, temporary shelter, counseling and social services for victims of violence and/or sexual assault. Nationwide referrals available 24/7 -National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800.799.SAFE (7233); 800.787.3224 (TTY). Local crisis centers include:
 - Travis - SAFEAlliance - <https://www.safeaustin.org/get-help/> 512.267.SAFE (7233); 512.927.9616 TTY
 - Williamson - Hope Alliance - <https://www.hopealliancetx.org/> 800.460.SAFE(7233)
 - Hays Caldwell Women's Center – hcwc.org- 512.396.HELP (4357) or 800.700.HCWC (4292).

- Bastrop area - Bastrop Family Crisis Center- www.family-crisis-center.org. 512.303.7755 or 888.311.7755
 - Apply for a Protective Order at the Bastrop Family Crisis Center 431 Old Austin Hwy, Bastrop, TX 78602
 - Burnet area - Highland Lakes Family Crisis Center- www.hlfcc.org. 800.664.3574
- **Texas Advocacy Project** - Attorney-staffed advice hotline for domestic violence and family law issues;
<https://www.texasadvocacyproject.org/> Family Violence: 512.476.5770; 800.374.HOPE. Family Law: 512.476.1866,
or 800.777.FAIR.