

**Comment from Bastrop County JP 1 Office:** Please be advised that this original document has been edited to a condensed version due to the original file size. We have reduced some content to adhere to topic resources and to reference Bastrop County eliminating other counties not relevant to our area. If you wish to view the document in full, please visit [www.tjctc.org](http://www.tjctc.org)

# 2019–2020 REFERRAL DIRECTORY

*Legal Services and Other Resources  
for Low-Income Texans*



*Published by the*

**LEGAL ACCESS DIVISION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS**

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**Civil Resources – Legal Resources Related to Civil Matters (by county)...9**

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE ABOVE COUNTY RESOURCE LIST HAS BEEN REDUCED TO INCLUDE ONLY BASTROP COUNTY.**

**Criminal Resources – Legal and Other Resources Relating to Criminal Matters.....Pages to follow**

- Capital Criminal Matters (Involving the Death Penalty).....
- Grievances.....
  - Jail Grievances.....
  - Prison Grievances.....
- Information for Relatives of Inmates.....
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- Other Resources .....**
- Lawyer Referral Services (Full Fee and Reduced Fee).....
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# Statewide Civil Legal, Government, and Related Agency Resources

## ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT INFORMATION

### **Mental Health & Substance Use Services, Health & Human Services**

866-378-8440 (Main Office)

[hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use](http://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use)  
Provides information on mental health and substance abuse programs and services, mental health promotion, substance abuse prevention and intervention information.

Substance Abuse hotline: 877-966-3784 and  
Mental Health hotline: 877-277-2226.

## CHILDREN/MINORS

### **Abuse & Neglect, Texas Department Of Family And Protective Services (TDFPS)**

800-252-5400 (Main Office)

[www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact\\_Us/report\\_abuse.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp)  
Hotline to report abuse, neglect and exploitation of children and the elderly or adults with disabilities.

### **CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)**

877-543-7669 (Main Office)

[www.chipmedicaid.org](http://www.chipmedicaid.org)

Offers low cost or free health insurance coverage from the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Children's Medicaid; both programs cover office visits, prescription drugs, dental care, eye exams, glasses and much more. CHIP coverage is also available for unborn children (see CHIP Perinatal).

### **Disability Rights Texas**

800-252-9108 (Main Office)

[www.DRTx.org](http://www.DRTx.org)

Legal representation and advocacy for disability rights issues; Intake Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm toll free at 800-252-9108, or online 24/7 at [intake.DRTx.org](http://intake.DRTx.org)

### **HEROES For Children In Military Families**

512-460-6400 (Main Office)

[www.texasattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov)

Provides service members, veterans and their dependents with enhanced, personalized assistance in addressing paternity establishment, child support and parenting time matters; (HEROES = Help Establishing Responsive Orders Ensuring Support For Children In Military Families). To speak with someone from HEROES, please call 512-460-6400 or email [heroes@oag.texas.gov](mailto:heroes@oag.texas.gov)

### **Jane's Due Process, Inc.**

866-999-5263 (Main Office)

[www.janesdueprocess.org](http://www.janesdueprocess.org)

Ensures legal representation for pregnant minors in Texas.

### **Office of Attorney General Child Support – General Information Line**

800-252-8014 (Main Office)

[www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs/child-support-division](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs/child-support-division)  
Provides information 24 hours a day for child support establishment and enforcement services provided by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG); assists in establishing paternity; handles reporting for newly hired or retired employee statutes; offers parents automated information on payment and case status, dates, and more. Call toll free: 800-252-8014

### **Office Of Consumer Relations For The Department Of Family & Protective Services**

512-438-4800 (Main Office)

[www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us)

Handles case-specific complaints relating to adult protective services in home investigations, child protective services, child care licensing investigations, and complaints regarding the Department of Family and Protective Services hotline.

### **Texas Access And Visitation Hotline**

[www.txaccess.org](http://www.txaccess.org)

Legal information, guidance, referrals and education for parents and interested parties addressing access, visitation and custody; paternity establishment; the child support order process; Hotline is answered Monday through Friday 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm: 866-292-4636

### **Texas Foster Youth Justice Project**

512-374-2767 (Main Office)

[www.texasfosteryouth.org](http://www.texasfosteryouth.org)

Provides free and confidential legal assistance to current foster youth and those who have aged out of foster care.

### **Texas Legal Services Center - Family Helpline**

844-888-6565 (Main Office)

[www.tlsc.org/familyhelpline](http://www.tlsc.org/familyhelpline)

A resource for people with legal questions about Texas Child Protective Services. Helpline: 844-888-6565. Calls accepted Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

### **Texas Legal Services Center – Texas Kinicare Taskforce**

512-477-6000 (Main Office)

[www.tlsc.org/kinicare](http://www.tlsc.org/kinicare)

Provides referrals and information to grandparents, aunts, uncles and older siblings who are raising minor children (with neither parent being at home) to appropriate sources of on-going assistance; produces the Texas Kinicare Primer available for download at [www.texaslawhelp.org](http://www.texaslawhelp.org). Applicants may call toll free on 866-979-4343 or fill out the online intake form.

## **CIVIL RIGHTS/DISCRIMINATION**

### **American Civil Liberties Union of Texas (ACLU)**

713-942-8146 (Main Office)

[www.aclutx.org](http://www.aclutx.org)

Works in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to every person in this country by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

### **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**

202-669-4000 (Main Office)

[www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov)

Responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age (40+), disability or genetic information.

### **Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF)**

210-224-5476 (Main Office)

[www.maldef.org](http://www.maldef.org)

Promotes change in the areas of education, employment, immigration rights and political access.

### **Texas Civil Rights Project**

512-474-5073 (Main Office)

[www.texascivilrightsproject.org](http://www.texascivilrightsproject.org)

Pursues litigation to challenge discriminatory policies and provides legal advocacy to protect the civil rights of immigrants, people with disabilities, veterans and other marginalized communities; conducts litigation targeted at reforming institutional practices and conditions in the criminal justice system; educates community leaders about voter registration laws and First Amendment rights protecting civil engagement activities; investigates state agency compliance with voting rights laws including high school voter registration law.

### **Texas Workforce Commission, Civil Rights Division**

512-463-2642 (Main Office)

[www.texasworkforce.org/civilrights](http://www.texasworkforce.org/civilrights)

Investigates and resolves complaints of employment and housing discrimination.

## **CONSUMER**

### **Consumer Helpline, Office Of Consumer Credit Commissioner**

800-538-1579 (Main Office)

<https://occc.texas.gov>

Regulates the credit industry and educate consumers and creditors, thereby producing a fair, lawful, and healthy credit environment for social and economic prosperity in Texas.

### **Consumer Law Center - The People's Lawyer**

713-743-2168 (Main Office)

[www.peopleslawyer.net](http://www.peopleslawyer.net)

Website containing a variety of information for the public on legal topics such as consumer, tenants' rights, small claims courts and other issues; also see [www.texasccc.com](http://www.texasccc.com) for consumer complaints.

### **Office of Attorney General – Consumer Protection Division**

800-621-0508 (Consumer Protection Hotline)

512-463-2185 (Main Office)

[www.texasattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov)

Investigates and enforces state and federal civil consumer protection laws on behalf of the State of Texas; accepts consumer complaints regarding deceptive trade practices but cannot represent individual consumers.

### **Transformance (Formerly Consumer Credit Counseling Service)**

214-638-2227 (Main Office)

[www.transformanceusa.org](http://www.transformanceusa.org)

Provides financial counseling, comprehensive community education, professional debt management plans and responsive customer service.

## **DISABILITY**

### **Abuse & Neglect, Texas Department Of Family And Protective Services (TDFPS)**

800-252-5400 (Main Office)

[www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact\\_Us/report\\_abuse.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp)

Hotline to report abuse, neglect and exploitation of children and the elderly or adults with disabilities

### **Disability Rights Texas**

800-252-9108 (Main Office)

[www.DRTx.org](http://www.DRTx.org)

Legal representation and advocacy for disability rights issues; Intake Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm toll free at 800-252-9108, or online 24/7 at [intake.DRTx.org](http://intake.DRTx.org).

**HELPS Non Profit Law Firm**

855-435-7787 (Main Office)

[www.helpsishere.org](http://www.helpsishere.org)

Social security, pensions, disability, and VA benefits are protected by law. HELPS is a nationwide nonprofit law firm that represents seniors and disabled who owe debt they can't afford to pay. Represent persons ongoing, in order to stop unwanted collector contact by phone or mail. Also educates seniors and disabled on how to maintain their financial independence. Does not represent persons in court and provides referrals to pro bono assistance for clients requiring a local attorney.

**Relay Texas**

800-735-2988 (Main Office)

[www.relaytexas.com](http://www.relaytexas.com)

Provides telephone accessibility service between individuals who can hear and those who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind or speech-disabled. The relay service is available 24/7: 7-1-1 or 800-735-2988.

**Southern Disability Law Center**

512-458-5800 (Main Office)

[www.sdlcenter.org](http://www.sdlcenter.org)

Provides free individual and systemic legal representation to persons with disabilities who have been denied Medicaid services.

**Texas Department On Aging And Disability Services (DADS)**

512-438-3011 (Main Office)

[www.dads.state.tx.us](http://www.dads.state.tx.us)

Routes number to local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) office; provides services for people who are aging and who have cognitive and physical disabilities, chronic illness and disease; works in partnership with consumers, caregivers and service providers.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULT**

See: [www.hhsc.state.tx.us/programs/familyviolence/shelters.html](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/programs/familyviolence/shelters.html) for a city-by-city list of domestic violence shelters and crisis numbers

**Brighter Tomorrows**

972-262-8383 (Main Office)

[www.brightertomorrows.net](http://www.brightertomorrows.net)

Provides legal advocacy for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, particularly with obtaining protective orders and referrals to free and sliding scale legal assistance. 24-Hour Hotline: 972-262-8383

**Crime Victims' Compensation Program, Office Of The Attorney General Of Texas**

512-936-1200 (Main Office)

[www.texasattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov)

Ensures that victims of violent crime are provided financial assistance for crime-related expenses that cannot be reimbursed by insurance or other sources.

**Family Violence Center - Northwest Assistance Ministries**

281-885-4673 (Main Office)

[www.namonline.org](http://www.namonline.org)

Provides legal advocacy, particularly with obtaining protective orders and referrals to free and sliding scale legal assistance, for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. 24 hour hotline: 281-885-4673.

**FamilyTime Crisis And Counseling Center**

281-446-2615 (Main Office)

[www.familytimeecc.org](http://www.familytimeecc.org)

Provides legal advocacy for survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence and sexual assault, particularly with obtaining protective orders and referrals to free and sliding scale legal assistance. 24 hour crisis hotline: 281-446-2615.

**Legal Aid for Survivors of Sexual Assault**

844-303-7233 (Main Office)

[www.tlsc.org/programs/lassa.asp](http://www.tlsc.org/programs/lassa.asp)

Provides free legal assistance to any survivor in Texas. Confidential hotline available seven days a week.

**Love is Respect – National Dating Abuse Helpline**

866-331-9474 (Main Office)

[www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

Offers one-on-one support from trained Peer Advocates who supply information and advocacy to those involved in dating abuse relationships, concerned parents, teachers, clergy, law enforcement, and service providers. 24 hour hotline: 866-331-9474. TTY: 866-331-8453. Applicants can also get in touch by SMS: Text "loveis" to 22522.

**National Domestic Violence Hotline**

800-799-7233 (Main Office)

[www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

Advocates are available for victims and anyone calling on their behalf to provide crisis intervention, safety planning, information and referrals to agencies in all 50 states, U.S. territories and Canada. 24 hour toll free hotline: 800-799-7233. A videophone is available for the deaf or hard of hearing: 855-812-1001. TTY: 800-787-3224.

**Texas Advocacy Project**

512-476-5377 (Main Office)

[www.texasadvocacyproject.org](http://www.texasadvocacyproject.org)

Provides free legal services statewide to victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. HOPE Line: 800-374-HOPE (4673)

**Texas Association Against Sexual Assault**

512-474-7190 (Main Office)

[www.taasa.org](http://www.taasa.org)

Assists victims of sexual assault with resources and support services.

### **Texas Council On Family Violence (TCFV)**

512-794-1133 (Main Office)

[www.tcfv.org](http://www.tcfv.org)

Assists and supports Texas domestic violence shelters, battering intervention and prevention programs and other family violence service providers; maintains extensive domestic violence-related resources; provides state-wide training to prosecutors, law enforcement, and the judiciary; conducts in-depth work in research and policy areas.

### **Victim Services Division, Texas Department of Criminal Justice**

800-848-4284 (Main Office)

[www.tdcj.texas.gov](http://www.tdcj.texas.gov)

Provides direct, personal services to victims and their families throughout Texas; assures victims that they can be involved in all parts of the criminal justice system if desired; updates victims with the status of the offender.

### **Texas Legal Services Center - Crime Victims**

844-303-7233 (Main Office)

[www.tlsc.org/crimevictims](http://www.tlsc.org/crimevictims)

Statewide project providing free direct legal representation and referrals for victims of violent crime and provides education about crime victim's rights. Offers legal advice, safety planning, pro se (self-representation) assistance, and legal representation to victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse or assault, stalking, cyber-stalking, or any other form of violent crime. Also assists with crime victim compensation claims. Applicants should complete the Crime Victims online intake form or call the helpline: 844-303-7233.

### **Victim Services Division - Texas Department Of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)**

800-848-4284 (Main Office)

[www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs](http://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs)

Provides direct, personal services to victims and their families throughout Texas; assures victims that they can be involved in all parts of the criminal justice system if desired; updates victims with the status of the offender; To access the Integrated Victim Services System (IVSS) Portal go to: [ivss.tdcj.texas.gov](http://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov).

## **ELDER LAW**

### **Abuse & Neglect, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS)**

800-252-5400 (Main Office)

[www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact\\_Us/report\\_abuse.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp)

Hotline to report abuse, neglect and exploitation of children and the elderly or adults with disabilities.

### **HELPS Non Profit Law Firm**

855-435-7787 (Main Office)

[www.helpsishere.org](http://www.helpsishere.org)

Social security, pensions, disability, and VA benefits are protected by law. HELPS is a nationwide nonprofit law firm that represents seniors and disabled who owe debt they can't afford to pay. Represent persons ongoing, in order to stop unwanted collector contact by phone or mail. Also educates seniors and disabled on how to maintain their financial independence. Does not represent persons in court and provides referrals to pro bono assistance for clients requiring a local attorney.

### **Texas Department on Aging and Disability Services (DADS)**

512-438-3011 (Main Office)

[www.dads.state.tx.us](http://www.dads.state.tx.us)

Routes number to local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) office; provides services for people who are aging and who have cognitive and physical disabilities, chronic illness and disease; works in partnership with consumers, caregivers and service providers.

### **Texas Legal Services Center – Legal Hotline For Texans**

512-477-6000 (Main Office)

[www.tlsc.org/legalhotline](http://www.tlsc.org/legalhotline)

Offers self-help legal advice and local referrals to Texans sixty years of age or older and to persons eligible for Medicare. The legal advice is provided over the telephone by licensed Texas attorneys. Applicants may call toll free on 800-622-2520 or fill out the online intake form.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **Equal Justice Center – Employment**

800-853-4028 (Main Office)

[www.equaljusticecenter.org](http://www.equaljusticecenter.org)

Provides free legal assistance to low-income persons seeking enforcement of wage and employment rights, regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

**Texas Legal Services Center – South Central Pension Rights Project (SCPRP)**

512-477-6000 (Main Office)

[www.tlsc.org/pension](http://www.tlsc.org/pension)

Provides assistance free of charge to anyone with a pension question or problem, regardless of age, income, or value of the claim. Applicants may call toll free on 800-443-2528 or fill out the online intake form.

**Texas Workforce Commission, Employee's Hotline**

512-463-2222 (Main Office)

<https://twc.texas.gov>

Provides employment-related assistance including discrimination in employment, education, job search and unemployment insurance; services include general information, individual advocacy and ombudsman services.

**Texas Workforce Commission, Labor Law Division**

512-475-2670 (Main Office)

[www.twc.texas.gov/programs/labor-law-program-overview](http://www.twc.texas.gov/programs/labor-law-program-overview)

Investigates and resolves wage claims for unpaid wages or compensation, and complaints for violations of the Texas Child Labor Law.

**Workers Compensation Division, Texas Department Of Insurance**

512-804-4000 (Main Office)

[www.tdi.texas.gov/wc](http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc)

Assists injured employees who are covered by workers compensation; provides safety and health services to Texas employers.

**GRIEVANCES AGAINST LAWYERS, JUDGES OR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**

**Attorney Grievance Information/Client Attorney Assistance Program (CAAP)**

800-932-1900 ext. x1790 (Main Office)

[www.texasbar.com/caap](http://www.texasbar.com/caap)

Assists the public and attorneys in resolving disputes with Texas attorneys; facilitate and improve communications between clients and attorneys.

**Health Professions Council's Complaint Referral System**

512-305-8550 (Main Office)

[www.hpc.state.tx.us](http://www.hpc.state.tx.us)

Receives complaints about any health care professional and routes them to the appropriate licensing board.

**State Commission on Judicial Conduct**

512-463-5533 (Main Office)

[www.scjc.texas.gov](http://www.scjc.texas.gov)

Investigates allegations of judicial misconduct or judicial disability and disciplines judges.

**To Report Barratry**

866-224-5999 (Main Office)

[www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com)

Report possible unlawful solicitation by an attorney.

**HEALTH**

**Mental Health & Substance Use Services, Health & Human Services Commission**

866-378-8440 (Main Office)

[hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use](http://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use)

Provides information on mental health and substance abuse programs and services, mental health promotion, substance abuse prevention and intervention information. Substance Abuse hotline: 877-966-3784 and Mental Health hotline: 877-277-2226.

**Texas Department Of State Health Services General Inquiry Hotline**

888-963-7111 (Main Office)

[www.dshs.state.tx.us](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us)

General inquiry hotline for programs run by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS); for state referrals dial 2-1-1.

**Texas Health And Human Services Commission**

512-424-6500 (Main Office)

<https://hhs.texas.gov>

Oversees the operations of the health and human services system; provides administrative oversight of Texas health and human services programs and provides direct administration of some programs, including Medicaid, food stamps and disaster relief; call 2-1-1 for intake or toll-free at 1-877-541-7905.

**Texas Legal Services Center – Health Law Program**

512-477-6000 (Main Office)

[www.tlsc.org/healthlaw](http://www.tlsc.org/healthlaw)

Provides free legal services to low-income Texans who have questions regarding health care issues, including but not limited to Medicare, Medicaid, Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), healthcare coverage after employment, denial of treatment, end of life planning, and directives. Applicants should complete the Health Law Program online intake form or call the helpline: 866-979-4343.

**HOUSING**

**Consumer Law Center – The People's Lawyer**

713-743-2168 (Main Office)

[www.peopleslawyer.net](http://www.peopleslawyer.net)

Website containing a variety of information for the public on legal topics such as consumer, tenants' rights, small claims courts and other issues; also see [www.texasccc.com](http://www.texasccc.com) for consumer complaints.

### **Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs**

512-475-3800 (Main Office)

[www.tdhca.state.tx.us](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us)

Provides referrals for rental assistance, rent-reduced apartments, low-interest housing loans, home repair, weatherization, utility assistance, and emergency/homeless services. This information is also found on the “Help for Texans” website, [www.tdhca.state.tx.us/texans.htm](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/texans.htm) or [www.tdhca.state.tx.us/texans-sp.htm](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/texans-sp.htm) for Spanish speakers. Does not provide legal assistance.

### **Texas Department Of Housing & Community Affairs – Manufactured Housing Division**

512-475-2200 (Main Office)

[www.tdhca.state.tx.us/mh](http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/mh)

The TDHCA Manufactured Housing Division regulates the manufactured housing industry in Texas, records ownership and liens, investigates and resolves consumer complaints, and conducts installation inspections. Does not provide legal assistance.

### **Texas Low-Income Housing Information Service**

512-477-8910 (Main Office)

[www.texashousers.net](http://www.texashousers.net)

Provides online information on public housing, tenants' rights and colonias; housing counselor helps locate affordable housing in Texas. Legal information on housing for the public is available at [www.texastenant.org](http://www.texastenant.org)

### **Texas Tenants Union**

214-823-2733 (Main Office)

[www.txtenants.org](http://www.txtenants.org)

Offers information and assistance to tenants with rental housing problems; free phone consultations; free weekly tenants' rights workshops held every Wednesday night at 6:30pm at 8035 East R.L. Thornton Frwy., Ste. 535, Dallas, 75226; individualized counseling provided; may include membership costs for additional services.

## **IMMIGRATION**

*For VAWA cases, see the “Civil Resources tab” (county-by-county listings) for LSC-funded programs and other programs which are able to accept VAWA petition cases for battered spouses; some of the non-LSC programs may charge a nominal fee or request donations.*

### **Citizenshipworks**

[www.citizenshipworks.org](http://www.citizenshipworks.org)

Website (available in English, Spanish, and Chinese) that helps legal permanent residents apply for citizenship, step-by-step; website alerts applicants about any potential problems with their application and allows applicants to connect with free or low-cost legal help. The Citizenshipworks mobile app (available in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean) offers preparation for the citizenship test.

### **Equal Justice Center – DACA, Naturalization And Immigration**

800-853-4028 (Main Office)

[www.equaljusticecenter.org](http://www.equaljusticecenter.org)

Provides free immigration legal assistance with DACA, naturalization, and immigration assistance for exploited workers.

### **GANO/CARECEN Central American Refugee Center**

713-665-1284 (Main Office)

Provides immigration services and handles court cases; adjustment of status, naturalization, family petitions, temporary protected status; does not handle business or employment related matters.

### **U.S. Citizenship And Immigration Services (USCIS)**

800-375-5283 (Main Office)

[www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

Federal agency that oversees lawful immigration to the United States.

## **INSURANCE**

### **CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program)**

877-543-7669 (Main Office)

[www.chipmedicaid.org](http://www.chipmedicaid.org)

Offers low cost or free health insurance coverage from the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Children’s Medicaid; both programs cover office visits, prescription drugs, dental care, eye exams, glasses and much more. CHIP coverage is also available for unborn children (see CHIP Perinatal).

### **Texas Department Of Insurance**

512-676-6000 (Main Office)

[www.tdi.texas.gov](http://www.tdi.texas.gov)

Regulates the state’s insurance industry to protect and ensure the fair treatment of consumers, investigate fraud, enforce insurance laws and rules and take action against companies and agents; ensures implementation and enforcement of Texas Workers’ Compensation Act, Texas Labor Code, and other regulations regarding workers’ compensation; Toll-free consumer helpline: 800-252-3439.

## **NON-PROFIT/TRANSACTIONAL**

### **Texas – Community Building With Attorney Resources (Texas CBAR)**

512-374-2712 (Main Office)

[www.texascbar.org](http://www.texascbar.org)

Provides pro bono legal referral program and other legal services to non-profit organizations with a mission to assist low-income communities in the state of Texas; provides legal assistance to micro entrepreneurs and small businesses.

**Texas Accountants And Lawyers For The Arts (TALA)**

[www.talarts.org](http://www.talarts.org)

Provides legal and accounting services to arts, non-profits and artists from all creative disciplines. TALA also administers the USPTO's Patent Pro Bono program for the Texas and Louisiana region.

**Texas Legal Services Center – Transactional Legal Assistance**

512-637-6752 (Main Office)

[www.tlsc.org/transactional](http://www.tlsc.org/transactional)

Helps eligible Texans prepare: Transfer on Death Deeds for Texas property owners who wish to transfer their real property to heirs without the need for probate; general durable powers of attorney for those wishing to designate another person (agent) to assist in the handling of their financial affairs; occupational driver's licenses if one was lost due to a DWI or other traffic violation; and expunction or nondisclosure for those who wish to clear or seal a criminal record to more easily qualify for housing and employment. Applicants may call 512-637-6752 or toll-free at 800-622-2520; due to high call volumes it may be quicker for applicants to fill out the Transactional Legal Assistance online intake form.

**PUBLIC BENEFITS****Texas Information And Referral Network (TIRN)****2-1-1 Texas**

211 (Main Office)

[www.211texas.org](http://www.211texas.org)

Provides free information and referral services on health and human services including food, shelter, rent assistance, utility bill assistance, counseling, child care, after-school programs, senior services, disaster relief and other programs in your area; fees may vary; callers can dial 2-1-1 from anywhere in the state to reach an information or referral specialist.

**Social Security Administration**

800-772-1213 (Main Office)

[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

Provides services for persons seeking retirement, Medicare, disability, spousal, or survivors benefits, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Many services can be completed online by creating a personal mysocialsecurity account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

**Texas Department Of State Health Services****General Inquiry Hotline**

888-963-7111 (Main Office)

[www.dshs.state.tx.us](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us)

General inquiry hotline for programs run by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS); for state referrals dial 2-1-1.

**Texas Health And Human Services Commission**

512-424-6500 (Main Office)

<https://hhs.texas.gov>

Oversees the operations of the health and human services system; provides administrative oversight of Texas health and human services programs and provides direct administration of some programs, including Medicaid, food stamps and disaster relief; call 2-1-1 for intake or toll-free at 1-877-541-7905.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES****Public Utility Commission Of Texas (PUC)**

512-936-7120 (Main Office)

[puc.texas.gov](http://puc.texas.gov)

Provides assistance in filing complaints against public utility companies (telephone and electricity) and "do not call" telemarketer lists. Assistance hotlines available Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm: 888-782-8477 or 512-936-7120.

**VETERANS****HEROES For Children In Military Families**

512-460-6400 (Main Office)

[www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support)

Provides service members, veterans and their dependents with enhanced, personalized assistance in addressing paternity establishment, child support and parenting time matters; (HEROES = Help Establishing Responsive Orders Ensuring Support For Children In Military Families). To speak with someone from HEROES, please call 512-460-6400 or email [heroes@oag.texas.gov](mailto:heroes@oag.texas.gov).

**Stateside Legal**

207-774-4753 (Main Office)

[www.statesidelegal.org](http://www.statesidelegal.org)

Pine Tree maintains Stateside Legal as a national clearinghouse website for military members, veterans, and their families to help them understand their legal rights and identify potential resources for legal help via a directory of free and low-cost legal service providers in all 50 states. The site also includes advocate tool-kits and resources to strengthen legal representation of veterans and service members. Pine Tree's own legal services are limited to Maine residents.

**Texas Lawyers For Texas Veterans**

512-427-1514 (Main Office)

[www.texasbar.com/veterans](http://www.texasbar.com/veterans)

Website includes resources for veterans on legal clinics and other related issues.

**Texas Legal Services Center – Texas Veterans Legal Assistance Project**

512-477-6000 (Main Office)

[www.tlsc.org/veterans](http://www.tlsc.org/veterans)

Provides legal assistance in civil matters, including family law, employment, housing, consumer, bankruptcy, probate, and VA benefits to low-income Texas veterans, their spouses, dependents and survivors. Applicants should complete the Veterans Legal Assistance Project online intake form or call toll free 800-622-2520 and select option 2.

**Texas Veterans**

**Commission** 512-463-6564

(Main Office)

[www.tvc.texas.gov](http://www.tvc.texas.gov)

Offers disability claims representation and counseling assistance, employment services and education benefits for Texas veterans and funding for the veteran's assistance program. Veterans information: 800-252- 8387; 24 hour V.A. crisis line: 800-273-8255.

**VetLex**

<https://vetlex.org>

Website offering resources to help veterans find pro bono legal assistance.

**OTHER**

**Consejos Legales**

713-759-1133 (Main Office)

[www.hba.org/event/consejos-legales](http://www.hba.org/event/consejos-legales)

The Mexican American Bar Association of Houston (MABAH) and the Hispanic Bar Association of Houston (HisBA), in association with the Houston Bar Association (HBA), offer a free, anonymous telephone legal advice service to the Spanish-speaking community through Consejos Legales. The service is held the first Thursday of each month from 6 PM to 8 PM. The call-in number is 713-759-1133.

**National Disaster Legal Aid**

**Website** 713-982-1980 (Main Office)

[www.disasterlegalaid.org](http://www.disasterlegalaid.org)

DisasterLegalAid.org is a national resource center for disaster survivors and advocates serving them. It provides accurate and timely information on active disasters and disaster related legal issues. As a national gathering place for disaster resources, the website builds connections between disaster legal aid community advocates working to meet legal needs across regions.

**Texas Information And Referral Network (TIRN) 2-1-1 Texas**

211 (Main Office)

[www.211texas.org](http://www.211texas.org)

Provides free information and referral services on health and human services including food, shelter, rent assistance, utility bill assistance, counseling, child care, after-school programs, senior services, disaster relief and other programs in your area; fees may vary; callers can dial 2-1-1 from anywhere in the state to reach an information or referral specialist.

**Texas Secretary Of State**

512-463-5770 (Main Office)

[www.sos.texas.gov](http://www.sos.texas.gov)

Provides information regarding corporations, limited liability companies, trademarks, voting rights and telephone solicitations; includes pre-recorded information, self-help materials and copies of filed documents; for voting information and election information, contact the Elections Division at 800-252- 8683.

**TexasLawHelp.Org**

[www.texaslawhelp.org](http://www.texaslawhelp.org)

Provides free, reliable civil legal information and documents; a LiveChat operator is available Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, to help eligible clients navigate the website.

**Consumer Law Center - The People's Lawyer**

713-743-2168 (Main Office)

[www.peopleslawyer.net](http://www.peopleslawyer.net)

Website containing a variety of information for the public on legal topics such as consumer, tenants' rights, small claims courts and other issues; also see [www.texasccc.com](http://www.texasccc.com) for consumer complaints.

**Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc.** 800-369-9270 (San Antonio) 888-988-9996 (Main Office) [www.trla.org](http://www.trla.org)  
Provides free legal services to low-income residents in 68 south, central, and west counties in Texas; provides free legal services to survivors of sexual assault in 114 counties in north and west Texas; represents migrant and seasonal farm workers in 7 states; operates public defender programs in several Southwest Texas counties (court-appointed only); for assistance in civil cases, call Monday through Thursday 8am-8pm; Friday 8am-6pm. Legal services hotline: 888-988-9996. Disaster-Related Hotline: 866-757-1570. Legal Aid for Survivors of Sexual Assault (LASSA) Hotline: 800-991-5153.

**American Gateways** 512-478-0546 (Main Office) [www.americangateways.org](http://www.americangateways.org)  
Handles immigration matters including, but not limited to, asylum, VAWA petitions, citizenship, family-based visa petitions, detainees rights, TPS, DACA and immigrant victims of crime.

**Capital Area Aids Legal Project (CAALP) 512-406-6173 (Main Office) [www.asaustin.org](http://www.asaustin.org)**  
The Capital Area AIDS Legal Project is a collaboration between Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas and AIDS Services of Austin. The project provides legal assistance to low income individuals affected by HIV/AIDS on most civil legal issues including but not limited to family law, public benefits, landlord/tenant issues, consumer law, and estate planning. A legal clinic is held at noon on the first or second Tuesday of the month, check [www.asaustin.org/caalp](http://www.asaustin.org/caalp) for details.

**Catholic Charities Of Central Texas Immigration Legal Services**  
512-651-6125 (Main Office) [www.ccctx.org/immigration-legal-services.html](http://www.ccctx.org/immigration-legal-services.html) Provides low cost, high quality legal representation in immigration matters including, but not limited to: Family Based Immigration, Permanent Resident Card Replacement or Renewal, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Visas for victims of crime and human trafficking, Naturalization and Asylum. Does not represent persons who are detained or involved in removal hearings. \$40 initial consultation fee includes review of client eligibility for immigration benefits.

**Disability Rights Texas** 512-454-4816 (Austin) 800-252-9108 (Main Office)  
Volunteer Legal Services Of Central Texas 512-476-5550 (Main Office) [www.vlsoct.org](http://www.vlsoct.org) [www.DRTx.org](http://www.DRTx.org)  
Legal representation and advocacy for disability rights issues; Intake Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 4:00pm toll free at 800-252-9108, or online 24/7 at [intake.DRTx.org](http://intake.DRTx.org).

**Equal Justice Center** 512-474-0007 (Austin) 800-853-4028 (Main Office) [www.equaljusticecenter.org](http://www.equaljusticecenter.org)  
Provides free legal assistance to low-income persons seeking protection and enforcement of wage and other employment rights, regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

**Equal Justice Center – DACA, Naturalization And Immigration**  
800-853-4028 (Main Office) [www.equaljusticecenter.org](http://www.equaljusticecenter.org) Provides free immigration legal assistance with DACA, naturalization, and immigration assistance for exploited workers.

**Family Crisis Center** 512-303-7755 (Main Office) [www.family-crisis-center.org](http://www.family-crisis-center.org)  
Provides legal advocacy for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, particularly with obtaining protective orders and referrals to free and sliding scale legal assistance; 24 hour crisis hotline: 512-303-7755 or toll free: 888-311-7755.

**Lone Star Victims Advocacy Project 512-715-4831 (Main Office) [www.lsvap.org](http://www.lsvap.org)**  
Provides free immigration legal services to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse in underserved areas of Texas. Serves rural communities in central and east Texas providing free legal services through mail, phone, email and video conferencing. BIA Accredited services include VAWA, U Visa, petitions to remove conditions, and applications to change status or employment authorization. Services are delivered remotely by phone, mail or online: applicants never need to travel to LSVAP.

**Refugee And Immigrant Center For Education And Legal Services (RAICES)**  
210-226-7722 (Main Office) [www.raicestexas.org](http://www.raicestexas.org) Provides immigration-related legal services for asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors, immigration detainees, and victims of domestic violence, crime and human trafficking. Offers free legal advice and intake clinic on civil law matters. VLS is unable to assist with criminal, immigration, or contested probate matters. Community Legal Clinics are held year-round at various dates and times in Travis, Bastrop, and Hays counties. Please visit our website for up-to-date information.

# LEGAL AND OTHER RESOURCES RELATING TO CRIMINAL MATTERS

If a public defender office is available in a particular county (see below), defendants should contact the public defender office. In criminal matters that could result in incarceration, indigent defendants should contact a magistrate, jailer, court administrator, or judge to request a court appointed lawyer. In matters involving a Class C misdemeanor (where no possible jail time is part of the sentence), there is no right to a court appointed lawyer.

## CAPITAL CRIMINAL MATTERS (INVOLVING THE DEATH PENALTY)

### Capital Punishment Clinic, UT School of Law

512-232-1475 (Main Office)  
<https://law.utexas.edu/clinics/capital-punishment>  
Provides representation, on a limited basis, to indigent defendants charged with or convicted of capital offenses on death penalty cases at the trial, appellate and post-conviction stages of litigation

### Office of Capital and Forensic Writs (OCFW)

512-463-8600 (Main Office)  
[www.ocfw.texas.gov](http://www.ocfw.texas.gov)  
Public Defender representing death-sentenced individuals in state post-conviction proceedings and individuals who are raising challenges to their convictions through forensic science writs.

### Texas Tech University School Of Law – Clinical Programs

806-742-4312 (Main Office)  
[www.depts.ttu.edu/law/clinics-and-externships/clinics](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/law/clinics-and-externships/clinics)  
Free legal representation and counseling to qualified low-income individuals through the law school's eight clinical courses. Law students offer legal assistance in areas of capital punishment, family law, housing, wills/estates, social security, criminal defense, tax issues and mediation. Tax clinic serves West Texas Panhandle counties, other clinics serve Lubbock and some surrounding counties.

## JAIL GRIEVANCES

### Texas Commission on Jail Standards

512-463-5505 (Main Office)  
[www.tcjs.state.tx.us](http://www.tcjs.state.tx.us)  
Inspector- Inmate Complaints, P.O. Box 12985, Austin, TX, 78711-2985  
Handles complaints of concern involving inmates in county jails or private correctional facilities that house county and/or out-of-state inmates (excludes the Texas Department of Criminal Justice facilities, city jails, juvenile facilities, and other privately operated facilities); inmates must use internal grievance process prior to submitting their complaint to the office; issues that are criminal in nature should be submitted to a law enforcement agency.

### Texas Jail Project

512-469-7665 (Main Office)  
[www.texasjailproject.org](http://www.texasjailproject.org)  
1712 E. Riverside Drive, Box 190, Austin, TX, 78741  
Non-profit organization that works to improve conditions for incarcerated women and men in Texas county jails; helps families navigate the criminal justice system and find solutions for inmates in crisis; facilitate reform through the Texas Commission on Jail Standards and by supporting legislation.

## PRISON GRIEVANCES

*An Ombudsman is an independent and impartial investigator for the public's complaints about the administration of government.*

### Access To Courts – Texas Department Of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)

936-437-4815 (Main Office)  
[www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/armm](http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/armm)  
P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342-0099  
Administers law libraries in the prison units that, at a minimum, contains self-help publications, pertinent case law, codes, rules, and fill-in-the-blank legal forms.

### Office Of The Inspector General – Texas Department Of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)

512-671-2480 (Main Office)  
[oig.tdcj.texas.gov](http://oig.tdcj.texas.gov)  
Office of the Inspector General Investigations  
Department, PO Box 4003, Huntsville, TX, 78728  
Investigates allegations of excessive/unnecessary use of force and harassment and retaliation of inmates for use of the legal system; investigate all criminal activities involving offenders and employees in the offices of the TDCJ; investigate fraud and any misappropriation of funds by state employees of TDCJ.

**Ombudsman Coordinator – Texas Department Of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)**

936-437-4927 (Main Office)

[www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/armm](http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/armm)

P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342-0099

Provides a single point of contact for elected officials and members of the general public who have inquiries regarding the agency, offenders or staff; also acts as a liaison between TDCJ and the general public; responds to informational inquiries regarding agency policies, procedures, or actions or to questions concerning a specific offender; facilitates problem resolution.

**Parole Division Ombudsman - Texas Department Of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)**

512-406-5795 (Main Office)

[www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/armm](http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/armm)

P.O. Box 13401, Capital Station, Austin, TX, 78711

Handles issues from the public relating to client supervision; responds to concerns from clients on parole or mandatory supervision.

**INFORMATION FOR RELATIVES OF INMATES**

**Texas Inmate Families Association (TIFA)**

512-371-0900 (Main Office)

[www.tifa.org](http://www.tifa.org)

P.O. Box 300220, Austin, TX, 78703-0004

Non-profit organization for families of inmates that advocate on behalf of their members to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Texas Legislature.

**INNOCENCE CLAIMS**

**Actual Innocence Clinic, UT School Of Law**

512-471-1317 (Main Office)

<https://law.utexas.edu/clinics/actual-innocence>

The University Of Texas School Of Law, 727 E. Dean Keeton Street, Austin, TX, 78705

A non-profit, tax-exempt corporation that screens and investigates claims from inmates that they are actually innocent of the offense for which they were convicted and are serving a prison sentence.

**Earl Carl Institute For Legal & Social Policy, Inc. – Innocence Project**

713-313-1161 (Main Office)

[www.earlcarlinstitute.org](http://www.earlcarlinstitute.org)

Earl Carl Institute, 3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, 77004

The Innocence Project investigates claims of actual innocence where an individual has been convicted of a crime in Texas; the convicted individual must have exhausted all direct appeals. Actual Innocence means that either (1) no offense was committed, or (2) there was an offense but someone else committed it. In addition, new conclusive evidence of innocence must be available to be presented on your behalf that was not available at the time of your original trial. Individuals claiming to have been wrongfully convicted may make a formal request for assistance by completing a TPIQ (Texas Prisoner Innocence Questionnaire) and mailing it to the Innocence Project. TPIQs are generally also available in prison libraries.

**Innocence Project Of Texas**

806-744-6525 (Main Office)

[www.innocencetexas.org](http://www.innocencetexas.org)

300 Burnett St., Ste. 160, Fort Worth, TX, 76102-2755

Investigates claims of actual innocence where an individual has been convicted of a felony in a Texas State Court and has exhausted all of his or her direct appeals; does not provide litigation assistance during trial, appeal or parole proceedings; requests must be sent by mail; include in the letter a description of the crime, the claimant's contact information (including TDCJ# if they are incarcerated) and a description of any evidence that could help to prove innocence.

**Texas Innocence Network – Houston Law Center**

713-743-7552 (Main Office)

[www.texasinnocencenetwork.com](http://www.texasinnocencenetwork.com)

4604 Calhoun Road, Houston, TX, 77204-6060

Considers cases involving incarcerated inmates with persuasive claims of actual innocence who have reached the end of the appellate process; takes cases in which a guilty plea, no contest plea or plea bargain was entered on a limited basis only; case requests must be sent by mail; include the inmate's name, number, address, crime convicted of, and reason(s) they are innocent of the crime

## LEGAL RESOURCES FOR MEXICAN NATIONALS

*Mexican Consulates may provide some assistance to Mexican Nationals – ask for the department of protection and legal affairs.*

### Consulate General Of Mexico

Austin: 512-478-2866  
Brownsville: 956-542-7267  
Dallas: 214-932-8670  
Del Rio: 830-775-2352  
Eagle Pass: 830-773-9255  
El Paso: 915-532-5540  
Houston: 713-995-1227  
Laredo: 956-723-0990  
McAllen: 956-686-0243  
Presidio: 423-229-2788  
San Antonio: 210-227-9145  
<https://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/sanantonio>

## NON-CAPITAL CRIMINAL MATTERS (MISDEMEANORS OR FELONIES)

### Criminal Defense Clinic, UT School Of Law

512-232-1300 (Main Office)  
[law.utexas.edu/clinics/criminal-defense](http://law.utexas.edu/clinics/criminal-defense)  
Persons charged with misdemeanors in Travis County may call to request an intake appointment (no walk-ins); outgoing voicemail message will indicate if new clients are being accepted.

### Criminal Litigation Clinic, SMU Dedman School Of Law

214-768-2555 (Main Office)  
[www.smu.edu/law/clinics/criminal-clinic](http://www.smu.edu/law/clinics/criminal-clinic)  
Provides legal assistance to Dallas County citizens charged with offenses (such as classes A and B misdemeanors) and face the possibility of imprisonment.

### Texas Tech University School Of Law – Clinical Programs

806-742-4312 (Main Office)  
[www.depts.ttu.edu/law/clinics-and-externships/clinics](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/law/clinics-and-externships/clinics)  
Free legal representation and counseling to qualified low-income individuals through the law school's eight clinical courses. Law students offer legal assistance in areas of capital punishment, family law, housing, wills/estates, social security, criminal defense, tax issues and mediation. Tax clinic serves West Texas Panhandle counties, other clinics serve Lubbock and some surrounding counties.

## LEGAL RESOURCES FOR INMATES IN PRISON

*Most federally funded legal aid programs are prohibited from assisting inmates with criminal legal matters. All Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) inmates must use the TDCJ system for filing complaints.*

*State Counsel for Offenders Division, Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)  
936-437-5203*

*[www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/scfo/](http://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/scfo/)*

*The mission of the State Counsel for Offenders is to provide attorneys and legal staff, independent of the TDCJ, to represent or assist indigent offenders with legal problems. Offenders wanting help with legal problems that cannot be solved at the unit law library level should send an I-60 or letter by truck mail to the relevant SCFO Section. The offenders name and TDJC ID# must be printed on the request. If the offender has been served with legal papers, the offender should immediately send the legal papers with an I-60 with name and TDJC ID# printed on the request, by truck mail to:*

*Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
State Counsel for Offenders – Attention [name of section]  
P.O. Box 4005  
Huntsville, TX 77342-4005*

*The State Counsel for Offenders has four sections:*

### State Counsel for Offenders – Criminal Defense Section

936-437-5203 (Main Office)  
[tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/scfo/criminal\\_defense\\_section.html](http://tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/scfo/criminal_defense_section.html)  
Represents indigent offenders indicted for felonies allegedly committed while incarcerated within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

### State Counsel for Offenders – Civil Defense Section

936-437-5203 (Main Office)  
[tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/scfo/civil\\_defense\\_section.html](http://tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/scfo/civil_defense_section.html)  
Represents indigent persons subject to court proceedings under the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) civil commitment statute; cannot help offenders with civil rights issues.

### State Counsel for Offenders – Appellate Section

936-437-5203 (Main Office)  
[www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/scfo/appellate\\_section.html](http://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/scfo/appellate_section.html)  
Assists indigent, incarcerated offenders who need legal services with civil commitment appeals, criminal appeals and post-conviction writs.

### State Counsel for Offenders – Legal Services Section

936-437-5203 (Main Office)  
[tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/scfo/legal\\_services\\_section.html](http://tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/scfo/legal_services_section.html)  
Assists indigent offenders with a variety of legal issues, problems, and questions. Areas include immigration, civil commitment, time related issues, prisoner exchange, Petition for Discretionary Review, pending charges and detainers, nunc pro tunc, as well as administrative proceedings and other legal issues.

**Affordable Inmate Services (AIS)**

936-564-3403 (Main Office)

[www.aisinmate.com](http://www.aisinmate.com)

Offers a full line of products and services to inmates within the United States. Provides access to paid legal research: Case law, PACER, court records and FOIA submissions on behalf of our clients. We maintain an Indigent Fund which covers limited legal research requests based on need. Refers all conditions of confinement complaints to Texas CURE, or local state CURE chapters and National CURE.

**Texas CURE**

214-893-0784 (Main Office)

[www.texascure.org](http://www.texascure.org)

Non-profit organization that organizes prisoners, their families, and other concerned citizens to achieve reforms in the Texas criminal justice system; provides referrals and information, but no legal assistance. Mailing address: P.O. Box 38381, Dallas, 75238-0381.

**Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)  
Reentry And Integration Division**

512-671-2134 (Main Office)

[tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/rid](http://tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/rid)

Provides a three-phased reentry program designed to prepare offenders for a successful return to the community by assisting with identification processing, assessment and reentry planning, community reentry services and reentry services for veterans. The program is conducted in conjunction with the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI), which coordinates the mental health and medical needs of both juvenile and adult offenders under supervision through established partnerships and targeted state resources. Reentry Hotline Number (877) 887-6151.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER**

See: <http://www.tdc.texas.gov> for a listing of public defender offices.

**Bee County Regional Public Defender Office**

361-358-1925 (Main Office)

[www.trla.org/office/bee-county-regional-public-defender](http://www.trla.org/office/bee-county-regional-public-defender)

Indigent criminal defense (includes Bee, Live Oak, McMullen, Goliad and Refugio CounSes); call toll free 877-854-3874 to qualify for assistance.

**Bowie County Public Defender**

903-792-2012 (Main Office)

[www.co.bowie.tx.us/page/bowie.PublicDefendersOffice](http://www.co.bowie.tx.us/page/bowie.PublicDefendersOffice)

Provides indigent criminal defense in Bowie County.

**Burnet County Public Defender Office**

512-234-3061 (Main Office)

[www.burnetcountytexas.org](http://www.burnetcountytexas.org)

Indigent criminal defense in felony, juvenile and misdemeanor offenses.

**Caprock Regional Public Defender Office**

806-742-4312 (Main Office)

[www.depts.ttu.edu/law/clinics-and-externships/clinics/crpd](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/law/clinics-and-externships/clinics/crpd)

Indigent criminal defense in misdemeanors, felonies and juvenile cases appointed by judge (includes Armstrong, Briscoe, Dickens, Floyd, Kent, King, Motley, Stonewall and Swisher counties).

**Colorado County Public Defender**

979-732-9425 (Main Office)

[www.co.colorado.tx.us/page/colorado.Defender](http://www.co.colorado.tx.us/page/colorado.Defender)

Indigent criminal defense.

**Dallas County Public Defender**

214-653-3550 (Main Office)

[www.dallascounty.org/government/public-defender/](http://www.dallascounty.org/government/public-defender/)

Indigent criminal defense for felony, misdemeanor, juvenile and capital offenses and issues related to family law, CPS, DNA, appellate and mental health.

**El Paso County Public Defender**

915-546-8185 (Main Office)

[www.epcounty.com/pdefender](http://www.epcounty.com/pdefender)

Represents indigent individuals charged with juvenile, misdemeanor and felony offenses from pretrial up to and including appeal; also assists in capital and child support as assigned by the courts.

**Far West Texas Regional Public Defender**

432-837-4120 (Main Office)

<https://far-west-texas-regional-public-defender.business.site/>

Indigent criminal defense in misdemeanors and felonies (includes Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Presidio).

**Hidalgo County Public Defender**

956-292-7040 (Main Office)

[www.hidalgocounty.us/196/Public-Defender](http://www.hidalgocounty.us/196/Public-Defender)

Represents indigent individuals charged with criminal juvenile and adult misdemeanor and co-occurring felony offenses, child welfare, protective order and child support delinquency case.

**Kaufman County Public Defender**

972-932-0230 (Main Office)

[www.kaufmancounty.net/courts-and-public-safety/public-defender](http://www.kaufmancounty.net/courts-and-public-safety/public-defender)

Indigent criminal defense; felony, misdemeanor.

**Rio Grande City Regional Public Defender**

956-271-0712 (Main Office)

<http://www.trla.org/office/rio-grande-city>

Represents indigent defendants who were appointed counsel by the courts in Starr, Duval, and Jim Hogg counties.

**Webb County Public Defender**

956-523-4101 (Main Office)  
[www.webbcountytx.gov/PublicDefender](http://www.webbcountytx.gov/PublicDefender)  
 Ensures legal representation to indigent defendants charged with adult misdemeanor and felony crimes; juvenile criminal defense unit.

**Wichita County Public Defender**

940-766-8199 (Main Office)  
[www.co.wichita.tx.us/Public\\_Defender](http://www.co.wichita.tx.us/Public_Defender)  
 Indigent criminal defense.

**Willacy County Public Defender Texas RioGrande**

Legal Aid  
 956-364-3810 (Main Office)  
[www.trla.org/office/willacy-county-public-defender](http://www.trla.org/office/willacy-county-public-defender)  
 Indigent criminal defense

**FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER**

*Federal public defenders offer effective counsel to indigent federal defendants who cannot afford to retain their own representation.*

**Federal Public Defender, Eastern District**

Beaumont: 409-839-2608  
 Frisco: 469-362-8506  
 Sherman: 903-892-4448  
 Tyler: 903-531-9233  
[txe.fd.org](http://txe.fd.org)

**Federal Public Defender, Northern District**

Amarillo: 806-324-2370  
 Dallas: 214-767-2746  
 Fort Worth: 817-978-2753  
 Lubbock: 806-472-7236  
[txn.fd.org](http://txn.fd.org)

**Federal Public Defender, Southern District**

McAllen: 956-630-2995  
 Laredo: 956-753-5313  
 Houston: 713-718-4600  
 Brownsville: 956-548-2573  
 Corpus Christi: 361-888-3532  
[www.fpdspot.org](http://www.fpdspot.org)

**Federal Public Defender, Western District**

Alpine: 432-837-5598  
 Austin: 512-916-5025  
 El Paso: 915-534-6525  
 San Antonio: 210-472-6700  
 Del Rio: 830-703-2040  
[txw.fd.org](http://txw.fd.org)

**JUVENILE PUBLIC DEFENDER**

*If a juvenile (ages 10-16) is charged with a crime, it may be considered a civil matter and legal aid may be able to help (see first program listed for the county in which the juvenile is being charged). In addition to contacting legal aid, a list of public defender offices that handle indigent juvenile defense is below.*

**Cameron County Juvenile Justice Department**

956-399-3075 (Main Office)  
[www.co.cameron.tx.us/iJDC](http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/iJDC)  
 Represents juvenile offenders.

**Caprock Regional Public Defender Office**

806-742-4312 (Main Office)  
[www.depts.ttu.edu/law/clinics-and-externships/clinics/crpd](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/law/clinics-and-externships/clinics/crpd)  
 Indigent criminal defense in misdemeanors, felonies and juvenile cases appointed by judge (includes Armstrong, Briscoe, Dickens, Floyd, Kent, King, Motley, Stonewall and Swisher counties).

**Dallas County Office Of The Public Defender – Juvenile Division**

214-698-4400 (Main Office)  
[www.dallascounty.org/government/public\\_defender](http://www.dallascounty.org/government/public_defender)  
 Represents juveniles charged with delinquent conduct.

**Earl Carl Institute For Legal & Social Policy, Inc. – Juvenile Justice Project**

713-313-1139 (Main Office)  
[www.earlcarlinstitute.org](http://www.earlcarlinstitute.org)  
 Addresses the issue of disproportionate minority contact (DMC), through a holistic approach, by providing legal representation to children who are in multiple systems including the criminal justice system, disparate educational systems, the mental health system and foster care system; offers free legal representation to students seeking to have their criminal records sealed, students in school disciplinary and special education hearings, cases pending in Justice of the Peace and Municipal Courts and the Juvenile Delinquency courts in Harris County, and its surrounding counties.

**El Paso County Public Defender**

915-546-8185 (Main Office)  
[www.epcounty.com/pdefender](http://www.epcounty.com/pdefender)  
 Represents indigent individuals charged with juvenile, misdemeanor and felony offenses from pretrial up to and including appeal; also assists in capital and child support as assigned by the courts.

**Travis County Juvenile Public Defender**

512-854-4128 (Main Office)  
[www.traviscountytx.gov/juvenile-public-defender](http://www.traviscountytx.gov/juvenile-public-defender)  
 Represents indigent juveniles who have been accused and asked to appear in juvenile court.

## **SPECIALTY PUBLIC DEFENDER**

### **Bexar County Public Defender's Office**

210-335-0701 (Main Office)  
www.bexar.org/1041/Public-Defenders-Office  
Appellate and mental health cases for indigent defense through court appointment only; applies to citizens of Bexar County.

### **Fort Bend County Mental Health Public Defender**

281-238-3050 (Main Office)  
www.fortbendcountytx.gov  
Represents indigent defendants with mental illnesses; cases with both felonies and misdemeanors involving mental health.

### **Harris County Public Defender's Office**

713-274-6700 (Main Office)  
harriscountypublicdefender.org  
Indigent criminal defense in the following: felony appellate, misdemeanor appellate, and misdemeanor mental health.

### **Lubbock Private Defenders' Office**

806-749-0007 (Main Office)  
www.lpdo.org  
Appoints specially trained private defenders to represent indigent citizens with serious mental illnesses or conditions charged with the commission of misdemeanor and felony offenses in Lubbock County; assigns case workers to provide case management after incarceration in order to help reduce the cycle of recidivism.

### **Montgomery County Mental Health Treatment Court Services Program**

936-538-8131 (Main Office)  
www.mctx.org/departments/departments\_l\_-\_p/mental\_health\_court\_services  
Serves to increase public safety, facilitate participation in effective mental health and substance abuse treatment, improve the quality of life for people with mental illness charged with crimes, and make more effective use of criminal justice and mental health resources. Represents indigent offenders in felony mental health and misdemeanor mental health cases through court appointment.

### **Regional Public Defender For Capital Cases**

806-775-1520 (Main Office)  
www.rpdo.org  
Indigent criminal defense (Judicial Regions may be accessed through website).

### **Office of Capital and Forensic Writs (OCFW)**

512-463-8600 (Main Office)  
www.ocfw.texas.gov  
Public Defender representing death-sentenced individuals in state post-conviction proceedings and individuals who are raising challenges to their convictions through forensic science writs.

### **Travis County Mental Health Public Defender**

512-854-3030 (Main Office)  
www.traviscountytx.gov/criminal-justice/mental-health-public-defender  
Misdemeanor criminal defense for those with mental health issues and defense with social services

## **STATEWIDE LEGAL RESOURCES RELATING TO CRIMINAL MATTERS**

*If a public defender is not listed under your county and the court does not appoint an attorney on your behalf, a list of all the lawyer referral services in Texas can be found under the "Other Resources" tab. Please indicate that you are searching for a criminal defense attorney. Alternative resources are listed below.*

### **National Association Of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL)**

202-872-4001 (Main Office)  
www.nacdl.org  
NACDL is the premier national bar serving the criminal defense profession. Offers an online referral directory of private criminal defense attorneys who are NACDL members. NACDL advocates for a fair, rational and humane criminal justice system, and provides continuing legal education for criminal defense lawyers.

### **Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA)**

512-646-2734 (Main Office)  
www.tcdla.com  
A statewide association for criminal defense attorneys; the website has a "Lawyer Locator" tool that identifies private criminal defense attorneys by city/county location and areas

### **Texas Fair Defense Project**

512-637-5220 (Main Office)  
www.fairdefense.org  
TFDP works to improve the fairness of the criminal justice system. TFDP accepts intake calls from individuals who are seeking help with Class C Misdemeanor tickets they cannot afford or are seeking help to reinstate their driver license. TFDP can only provide direct representation for a limited number of individuals, but will provide brief assistance over the phone for as many people as possible. TFDP also accepts intake calls from individuals who have had difficulty requesting appointed attorneys in their criminal case. TFDP cannot provide direct representation to individuals in that situation, but can provide brief advice over the phone.

# LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES

## (FULL FEE AND REDUCED FEE)

Lawyer referral services enroll licensed attorneys who pay the necessary registration fee and meet basic guidelines. Callers referred to a participating attorney by a lawyer referral service receive a half-hour consultation for no more than \$20. After the initial half-hour consultation, should the caller decide to authorize the lawyer to take action on their legal issue, the caller and lawyer may negotiate fees. These fees may be on a full or reduced fee basis, depending on the program the attorney is participating in.

Below is a list of the certified lawyer referral services in Texas. The State Bar of Texas operates the lawyer referral service for the areas of the state not covered by a local lawyer referral service.

**State Bar of Texas Lawyer Referral Information Service** ..... 800-252-9690  
Serving all counties except Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Harris, Jefferson, Nueces, Tarrant, and Travis.

### CERTIFIED LOCAL LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES

- Austin Tenants' Council**..... 512-474-1961
- Corpus Christi Bar Association**..... 361-883-3971
- Dallas Bar Association** ..... 214-220-7444
- El Paso Bar Association**..... 915-532-7052
- Harris County Bar Association**..... 713-236-8000
- Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association Lawyer Referral Service**..... 713-227-2404
- Houston Lawyer Referral Service\***.....713 237-9429 or 800-289-4577  
\*Also offers reduced fee attorneys for income-eligible individuals
- Jefferson County Bar Association** ..... 409-835-8438
- Lawyer Referral Service of Central Texas\***.....512 472-8303 or 866-303-8303  
\*Modest Means Program (previously known as Match) - reduced fee legal services for family law and estate planning cases; applicants should ask for "Modest Means" Program by name
- North Dallas Bar Association**..... 972-980-0472
- Plano Bar Association** ..... 972-424-6113
- San Antonio Bar Association**..... 210-227-1853
- Tarrant County Bar Association** ..... 817-336-4101
- Texas Lawyer Referral Service** ..... 888-635-6060

### ONLINE FIND A LAWYER SERVICE

**State Bar of Texas, Find a Lawyer** ..... [www.texasbar.com/findalawyer](http://www.texasbar.com/findalawyer)

Fee-paying clients may use the Find a Lawyer service to connect with attorneys. The service offers clients the option to filter results by fee options, including reduced fee arrangements and payment plans. The full list of options include:

**Contingency Fees:** The attorney's fee is based on a percentage of the amount awarded in judgment or negotiated in the settlement of the case.

**Flat Fees:** The attorney charges a specified sum for handling the entire case or matter or for completion of a certain task associated with the case or matter (e.g. review of a contract, court appearance, etc.).

**Hourly Rate:** The attorney charges a per-hour rate and usually tracks his or her time in fractions of an hour (often 10ths of an hour/6 minute increments).

**Payment Plans:** The attorney's fee may be paid in installments instead of all at once.

**Sliding Scale Fees:** A reduced fee arrangement based on a review of the client's overall income and ability to pay.

# INTRODUCTION TO PRO SE (SELF-HELP) RESOURCES

Major problems impacting access to the justice system in Texas include limited resources, funding restrictions, proximity to legal services in rural areas, and a rapidly increasing poverty population. The programs listed in this directory receive many requests for legal assistance, more than any program can accommodate. As a result, these programs can only assist a fraction of the requests received. Consequently, in some situations, individuals seeking legal assistance may have no choice other than to represent themselves in a legal matter.

## ONLINE SELF-HELP RESOURCES

### **www.TexasLegalAnswers.org**

Free online legal advice clinic offering answers by volunteer attorneys to civil legal questions. Low income Texans can post any non-criminal legal question securely at TexasLegalAnswers.org, from any computer or smart device. Users must meet low income eligibility requirements.

### **TexasLawHelp.org**

Website offering free, reliable civil legal information and documents (not legal assistance) to Texans who cannot afford legal help; a LiveChat operator is available Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, to help eligible clients navigate the website.

### **Toolkit: My Debt Collection Rights in Texas**

[www.mydebtcollectionrightstexas.org](http://www.mydebtcollectionrightstexas.org)

The debt collection rights website includes guides to help Texans identify debt collection scams, protect against debt collector scare tactics, respond to debt collection lawsuits, and to understand reasons you might not have to pay if you are sued for a debt.

### **Toolkit: Defending Against A Civil Asset Forfeiture Case**

[www.endforfeitureabusetxt.org](http://www.endforfeitureabusetxt.org)

Provides an online guide to help with civil asset forfeiture in Texas and how to get property back if it has been taken by law enforcement.

### **Toolkit: Managing Someone Else's Money In Texas**

<http://protecttheirmoneytx.org>

Offers an online toolkit for financial caregivers who manage money or property for those unable to do so themselves.

### **Texas Low Income Housing Information Service**

<https://texashousers.net>

Provides online information on public housing, tenants' rights and colonias; housing counselor helps locate affordable housing in Texas. Legal information about housing is available for the public at [www.texastenant.org](http://www.texastenant.org).

## SELF-HELP RESOURCES FOR CIVIL MATTERS

### **BASTROP**

#### **Lawyer Referral Service of Central Texas**

512-472-8303

Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, M-F

Offers limited scope referrals in family law matters for clients able to represent themselves (pro se) and reduced-fee legal services for qualified clients under the Modest Means Program (previously known as Match Program).