

FREE LEGAL SERVICES AND GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

This document is provided as a general resource. It does not provide legal advice or constitute an endorsement of any particular organization.

Self Help Resources

- Texas Law Help - general information about the law and legal process.
www.texaslawhelp.org
- Texas State Law Library Self Help Resources - Legal information, legal hotlines, referral sources, forms, etc.
www.sll.texas.gov/self-help/

Local Legal Hotlines – Free Advice Over the Phone

- Houston Bar Association’s Legalline - first and third Wednesdays of month from 5pm to 9pm only.
(713) 759-1133
www.hba.org.
- The Woodlands Bar Association’s Law Line - first Monday of the month 5pm to 8pm only.
(281) 645-6344
- Texas Legal Hotlines – a complete list of legal hotlines.
guides.sll.texas.gov/legal-help/hotlines

Child Support, Visitation and Custody Issues

- Office of the Attorney General (OAG) – Although the OAG cannot represent you, the OAG may be able to help you with custody, visitation, child support (including back child support) and medical support order. For information call 1-800-252-8014 or visit the Texas Attorney General Child Support Division website: [://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs/welcome-to-the-child-support-division](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs/welcome-to-the-child-support-division).
- Apply for Child Support - Apply online at <https://childsupport.oag.state.tx.us>. For questions regarding the application process (800) 252-8014.

Free Legal Services

- Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program (713) 228-0735 provides free civil legal services to low-income residents of Harris County. www.makejusticehappen.org
Areas of Law: Most civil matters except criminal, traffic, or personal injury plaintiffs.
- Lone Star Legal Aid (713) 652-0077 provides free civil legal services to low-income clients in the Houston and east Texas area. www.lonestarlegal.org
Areas of Law: Domestic Violence, Elder Law, Health Care, Housing, Employment, Unlawful Trade Practices, Education, Civil Rights, and Disaster Relief. They do not assist with immigration or prisoner issues.

Mediation Services

- Dispute Resolution Center of Montgomery County, Inc. (936) 760-6914 offers low cost

mediation services to avoid costly court and attorney fees www.resolution-center.org.

- Harris County Dispute Resolution Center (713) 274-7100 offers low-cost mediation services to avoid costly court and attorney fees drc.harriscountytexas.gov

University Legal Clinics

- [South Texas College of Law Legal Clinic](#)
Tel: (713) 652-0009
Areas of Law: Uncontested Divorces, Uncontested Probate Matters, Estate Planning.
The Law School offers direct representation in a limited number of cases.
- [Texas Southern University \(Thurgood Marshall School of Law – Legal Clinic\)](#)
Tel: (713) 313-7275
Areas of Law: Immigration, Criminal Matters (Misdemeanors), Family Law (Simple Divorces/ No property and no children), Wills & Probate Matters, ADR/Mediation.
The Law School offers direct representation in a limited number of cases.
- [University of Houston Law Center \(Clinical Legal Education Programs\)](#)
Tel: (713) 743-2094
Areas of Law: Civil, Consumer, Criminal, Immigration, Mediation.
The Law School offers direct representation in a limited number of cases.

Veteran's Care Guide

- This guide is designed to help veterans and/or their surviving spouses determine their eligibility for benefits, explains how to apply for benefits, and reviews several veteran care options.
<https://www.seniorliving.org/research/veteran-care/>

Other Legal Services and Resources

[American Civil Liberties Union of Texas](#)

- Tel: (713) 942-8146
- 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.
- The ACLU does not usually assist in the following types of cases: criminal defense or post-conviction appeals, divorce or child custody disputes, property disputes, tax problems, workers compensation issues, consumer complaints, landlord-tenant disputes, building code issues and complaints about lawyers or judges. Requests for legal assistance must be [submitted online](https://action.aclu.org/legal-intake/texas-legal-intake). <https://action.aclu.org/legal-intake/texas-legal-intake>

[AIDS/HIV Legal Aid Program and Legal Redress Program, NAACP](#)

- Tel: (713) 526-3389
- Areas of Law: Estate matters, insurance, employment, social security, will, probate,

landlord/tenant, powers of attorney, family law, monitor EEOC discrimination complaints, consumer problems, SSI, Social Security Disability (SSDI), government benefits. Legal services are open to anyone who can meet the income level. You must be at or below 125% of poverty level for full representation, or at or below 300% of poverty level for HIV+ and AIDS related services.

Texas Advocacy Project

- Tel: 800-374-HOPE
- Areas of Law: Domestic Violence, Family Law, Sexual Assault.
- Free statewide legal service for victims of domestic violence. They offer a legal aid hotline and direct legal services.

Courthouse Information Booth (Harris County Family Law Center)

- Tel: (713) 225-9455
- Areas of Law: Divorce, Name Change.
- Lawyers help unrepresented people fill out forms for divorce or name changes.

Carecen Central American Refugee Center

- Tel: (713) 665-1284
- Areas of Law: Asylum, Domestic Violence, Immigration.
- Services are by appointment only. They may charge a nominal fee. Income limits apply.

Catholic Charities' St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigration Legal Assistance

- Tel: (713)874-6570
- Areas of Law: Domestic Violence, Immigration, Naturalization.
- Services are by appointment only. There is a \$30 intake fee, but most legal services are free or low-cost. Representatives speak Arabic, English, French, Sign language for the deaf, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

American Immigration Lawyers Association

Provides legal information and lawyer referral service.

<https://ailalawyer.com/>

<https://www.aila.org/library/client-flyer-know-your-rights>

Texas Global, University of Texas

- website provides legal information about immigration
- <https://global.utexas.edu/iss/immigration/know-your-rights>

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

- Tel: (713) 228-0735, ext. 102
- Areas of Law: Children, Immigration.
- KIND helps refugee and immigrant children with a variety of immigration cases, including asylum, special immigrant juvenile status (SIJS), U and T visas, VAWA petitions, family-based petitions, and other forms of protection from deportation. Clients must be under 18 years old.

[YMCA International Services](#)

- Tel: (713) 339-9015
- Areas of Law: Citizenship, Domestic Violence, Immigration, Refugee Assistance.

[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.
- To be eligible for services individuals must be an individual artist with a combined annual household income of less than \$50,000.

[Advocate Legal Senior Center](#)

- Tel: (713)527-4029
- Areas of Law: Guardianship, Probate, Money Management, and Medicaid Financial Planning.
- This organization offers a full range of free or low-cost legal services for seniors and guardians.

[Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic](#)

- Tel: (713) 225-1TAX
- Area of Law: Taxes.
- This clinic is by appointment only.

[Houston Volunteer Lawyers Veterans Clinic](#)

- Tel: (713) 228-0732
- Area of Law: Civil.
- This clinic serves U.S. military veterans and spouses of deceased veterans. It runs every Friday from 2 - 4 pm.

[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.
- This is a free, statewide legal services hotline. To receive services, you must be a Texas resident, U.S. military veteran (or the spouse, dependent, or surviving spouse of a veteran), and have household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.