

Abandoned Property Research Guide

Overview

This research guide includes information and resources on abandoned personal property. See Adverse Possession guide for issues related to lost or abandoned real property. Personal property is “any movable or intangible thing that is subject to ownership and not classified as real property.” (*Black’s Law Dictionary, 11th ed.*) The resources listed below are not exhaustive and may not include the most up-to-date information. It is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or act as the substitute for legal counsel.

Statutes and Codes

Texas Statutes Online www.statutes.capitol.texas.gov

Property Code

- Ch. 72 Abandonment of Personal Property
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PR/htm/PR.72.htm>

Code of Criminal Procedure

- §18.17 Disposition of Abandoned or Unclaimed Property
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CR/htm/CR.18.htm#18.17>
- Ch. 47 Disposition of Stolen Property
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CR/htm/CR.47.htm>

Secondary Resources in Print

Vernon’s Texas Codes Annotated KFT 1230.5

- Property Code Vol. 6, Ch. 72 Abandoned Property

Texas Criminal Codes Plus KFT 1761 .A29 O26

- Code of Criminal Procedure §18.17 Disposition of Abandoned or Unclaimed Property (seized property)
- Code of Criminal Procedure §47.06 Property Sold (stolen property)

West’s Texas Digest 2d KFT 1257 .W48

- Vol. 1, Ch. 1 Abandoned Property

Texas Jur KFT 1265 .T48

- Vol. 1, Ch. 1 Abandoned Property

Texas Litigation Guide KFT 1730 .T4

- Vol. 18, Ch. 282 Landlord Tenant
- Vol. 24, Ch. 411 Court Approval for Abandonment of Property by Guardian

Texas Torts and Remedies KFT 1395 .T49

- Vol. 1, Ch. 23 Landlord and Tenant: Abandonment of premises

Texas Real Estate Forms Manual KFT 1326 .T4

- Vol. 1, Ch. 2 Abandonment of Property by a Tenant

Texas Transaction Guide KFT 1268 .K45

- Vol. 22, Ch. 90A Storage of Personal Property §90A.140 Personal property stored in storage facility

American Jurisprudence Pleadings and Practice KF 8836 .A45

- Vol. 1 Part 1, Abandoned Property

Online Resources

Abandoned Property Research Guide (TSLL)

<https://guides.sll.texas.gov/abandoned-property>

Handling a Tenant's Abandoned Property in Texas
(NOLO)

<https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/handling-tenants-abandoned-property-texas.html>

Are You an Unclaimed Property Holder? (Texas
Comptroller)

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/unclaimed/>

Personal Property in an Eviction: What Happens to
Your Things? (TexasLawHelp)

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/personal-property-in-an-eviction-what-happens-to-your-things>

Abandoned Property (Cornell Law School)

https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/abandoned_property

Legal Assistance

**Legal Lines – Ask Attorneys simple legal questions
(free service)**

- Tarrant County LegalLine Sign-up
<https://www.tarrantbar.org/>
- Dallas County LegalLine Sign-up
<https://www.dallasbar.org/index.cfm?pg=legalline>

**Tarrant County Bar Association Lawyer Referral
Service:** 817-336-4101 (\$20 for the first 30 minutes)