

Accessing Adoption Records Research Guide

Overview

This research guide contains information and resources related to requesting adoption records in Texas. This research guide is not exhaustive and may not have the most up-to-date information. It is for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or act as the substitute for legal counsel.

Related guides: Same-Sex Adoption Research Guide

Statutes & Codes

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

Texas Family Code

- Ch. 162 Adoption
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.162.htm>

Secondary Resources in Print

Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated KFT 1230.5

- Family Vol. 9, Ch. 162 Adoption

Texas Family Code Plus REF KFT 1294 03B4

- Ch. 162 Adoption
 - § 162.006 Access to Health, Social, Educational, and Genetic History Report; Retention
 - § 162.007 Contents of Health, Social, Educational, and Genetic History Report
 - § 162.0062 Access to Information, pp.821-822

Texas Family Law Practice Manual REF KFT 1294 T4S7

- Vol. 3, Ch. 51 Adoption of Child

- Vol. 3, Ch. 52 Combined Termination and Adoption of Stepchild
- Vol. 3, Ch. 60 Adoption of Adult

Texas Practice Guide REF KFT 1294 .G33

- Family Vol. 1, Ch. 10 Parent-Child Relationship – Part IV. Termination of Parental Rights and Part V. Adoption.”

Texas Family Law Practice and Procedure REF KFT 1294 .F35

- Vol. 4, Objective S. Terminating Parental Rights – Tasks S1 through S5
- Vol. 4, Objective T. Adopting a Minor or Adult – Tasks T1 through T6.

Texas Jurisprudence (Tex Jur III) KFT 1265 .T48

- Vol. 39A, Part 4 – “Parent and Child,” Section XII, “Adoptions §§1017 through 1139.

CLE Materials

Advanced Family Law Course KFT 1294 .S83

- 2020 Ch. 42 Adoption for Non-Adoption Attorneys
- 2020 Ch. 49 Termination Case Law Update
- 2019 Ch. 11 Supreme Court of Texas Update, Section G. Termination of Parental Rights, p. 22-23
- 2019 Ch. 27.2 UCCJEA, UIFSA, and UPA Made Easy: UPA
- 2019 Ch. 47 Termination Case Law Update
- 2018 Ch. 3 Supreme Court of Texas Update, Section H. Termination of Parental Rights, p. 30-31

Online Resources

Central Adoption Registry (Texas Department of State Health Services)

<https://dshs.texas.gov/vs/adoption/registry.aspx>

Accessing Adoption Records in Texas (Texas Law Help) <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/accessing-adoption-records-in-texas>

Closed Child-Placing Agencies (Texas Department of State Health Services)

<https://dshs.texas.gov/vs/adoption/closed-agencies.aspx>

Texas Adoption Reunion Registry (Find My Family)

<https://www.findmyfamily.org/Texas-Reunion-Registry/page-2/>

Adoptee Rights Law Center

<https://adopteerightslaw.com/>

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)