

Accessing Adoption Records Research Guide

Overview

This research guide contains information and resources related to requesting adoption records in Texas. For information of same-sex adoption, please see a separate handout. 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.

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 KFT 1294 O3B4

- 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 KFT 1294 T4S7

- Vol. 4, Ch. 51 Adoption of Child
- Vol. 4, Ch. 52 Combined Termination and Adoption of Stepchild

- Vol. 4, Ch. 60 Adoption of Adult

Texas Practice Guide 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 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>

Adoption Forms (Texas Department of State Health Services) <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/vs/forms.aspx#adopt>

Texas Voluntary Adoption Registry (Gladney Center for Adoption) <https://adoptionsbygladney.com/contact/texas-voluntary-registry>

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)