

# Attorney or Judge Grievances Research Guide

## Overview

This research guide includes information and resources about filing grievances against an attorney or judge if they violate the standards of ethical conduct. There is a disciplinary system set up through the State Bar of Texas and the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, respectively, for ensuring attorneys and judges maintain standards of professional conduct and imposing sanctions against those who violate those standards. The resources listed below are not exhaustive and may not include 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 and Codes

Texas Statutes Online [www.statutes.capitol.texas.gov](http://www.statutes.capitol.texas.gov)

Texas Code of Judicial Conduct (Texas Judicial Branch) <https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards.aspx>

Texas Government Code

- Ch. 81 Subchapter E. Discipline  
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.81.htm#E>
- Ch. 82 Subchapter C. Attorney Conduct  
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.82.htm#C>

## Secondary Resources in Print

**Texas Legal Malpractice & Lawyer Discipline KFT 1276.5 H47**

- Ch. 5 Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure  
§5.42 Grievance Process In General

**Law Office Road Map KFT 1277 .L39**

- Appendix B – Ethics and Professional Conduct

**Legal Ethics & Texas Criminal Law: Prosecution & Defense KFT 1777 .W5**

- Ch. 4 Conflicts of Interest (*see also* “disciplinary rules” in the Index)

## CLE Materials

**Advanced Family Law Course KFT 1294 .S83**

- 2021 Ch. 59 Grievances: What Every Attorney Needs to Know
- 2018 Ch. 19 The Grievance Process

**Advanced Criminal Law Course KFT 1761 .S7**

- 2021 Ch. 38 What Criminal Lawyers Should Know About BODA, Grievances, and Lawyer Discipline (*PDF only*)

**Advanced Insurance Law KFT 1385 .A7515**

- 2022 Ch. 14 Practical Tips to Avoid Legal Malpractice, Sanctions, and Professional Misconduct Findings

**Oil and Gas Disputes KFT 1458 .L4**

- 2022 Ch. 21 Most Common Violations Facing Lawyers

## Online Resources

Grievance Form (Attorney Misconduct) (Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel)  
[https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grievance and Ethics Information1&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=46687](https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grievance%20and%20Ethics%20Information1&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=46687)

Sworn Complaint Form (Judge Misconduct) (State Commission on Judicial Conduct)

<https://scjc.texas.gov/media/46893/scjc-complaint-form.pdf>

Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct  
(State Bar of Texas)

<https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&ContentID=27271&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm>

Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure (State Bar of Texas)

[https://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/CDRR/TDRPC/TRDP\\_Effective082721.pdf](https://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/CDRR/TDRPC/TRDP_Effective082721.pdf)

Client-Attorney Assistance Program (CAAP) (State Bar of Texas)

<https://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/ForThePublic/ProblemwithanAttorney/CAAP/default.htm>

Filing a Grievance (Texas State Bar)

[https://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/ForThePublic/ProblemwithanAttorney/GrievanceEthicsInfo1/File\\_a\\_Grievance.htm](https://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/ForThePublic/ProblemwithanAttorney/GrievanceEthicsInfo1/File_a_Grievance.htm)

Attorney Complaint Information (Texas Law Help)

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/attorney-complaint-information>

Legal Ethics and Professional Misconduct (TSLL)

<https://guides.sll.texas.gov/legal-ethics-and-professional-misconduct>

Resolving Fee Disagreements (State Bar of Texas)

<https://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/ForThePublic/ProblemwithanAttorney/ResolvingFeeDisagreements/default.htm>

What to Do If Your Attorney Dies, Disappears,  
Becomes Disabled or Is Suspended or Disbarred  
(Texas Law Help)

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/what-to-do-if-your-attorney-dies-disappears-becomes-disabled-or-is-suspended-or-disbarred>

- 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)

## Legal Assistance

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

- Tarrant County LegalLine Sign-up  
<https://www.tarrantbar.org/>