

Family and Protective Services (formerly CPS) Research Guide

Overview

This research guide provides information and resources related to the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), formerly known as Child Protective Service, or CPS. *Some resources will still refer to it as CPS.* 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 & Codes

O'Connor's Texas Family Code Plus KFT 1294.03B4 or Sampson & Tindall's Texas Family Code Annotated KFT 1294.A3

- Texas Family Code Subtitle E: Protection of the Child Chapters 261 to 266
 - Ch. 261: Investigation of Report of Child Abuse or Neglect
 - Ch. 262: Procedures in Suit by Governmental Entity to Protect Health and Safety of Child
 - Ch. 263: Review of Placement of Children Under Care of Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
 - Ch. 264: Child Welfare Services
 - Ch. 265: Prevention and Early Intervention Services
 - Ch. 266: Medical Care and Educational Services for Children in Foster Care

Texas Family Code Subtitle A: General Provisions

- Ch. 107: Special Appointments and Social Studies
 - SubCh A: §§ 107.001 to 107.010: Court-Ordered Representation in Suits Affecting the Parent Child Relationship

- SubCh B: §§ 107.011 to 107.023: Appointments in Certain Suits

Title 40 Texas Administrative Code (TAC): Chapter 700: Child Protective Services KFT 1235.A215 2020 or www.sos.state.tx.us

Secondary Resources in Print

Dorsaneo's Texas Litigation Guide KFT 1730.T4

- **Unit 8: Family Code Litigation (Chs. 360-382)**

Texas Family Law Practice Manual KFT 1294.T4S7

- Vol. 1, Ch. 26 §26.16 Appeals in Parental Termination and Child Protection Cases

CLE Materials

Advanced Criminal Law Course: KFT 1761 S.7

- 2020 Ch. 34: Issues in Child Injury and Fatality Cases
- 2019 Ch. 38: When CPS and Criminal Law Intersect: Protecting your Client on Both Fronts
- 2019 Ch. 50: Procedural Issues in CPS Suits Involving Party Incapacity

Advanced Family Law Course KFT 1294.S83

- 2020 Ch. 52: Helping Relative and Kinship Placements
- 2016 Ch. 41: Emergency Orders for Child Protection on Behalf of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- 2015 Ch. 47: Nuts and Bolts of a CPS Case
- 2011 Ch. 47: "2011 Legislative Update of Child Abuse and Neglect Legislation"

- 2011 Ch. 48: “Improving Outcomes for Cross-Over Youth”
- 2010 Family Law Child Abuse & Neglect Workshop Volume 3 Chapters 49 to 59: (Chapters 51, 53 & 54: no articles)
- 2009 Volume 2 Ch. 54: “Representing Parents in Department of Family & Protective Services Cases: The Basics”
- 2007 Volume 2 Ch. 30: Understanding the A.G. and C.P.S.
- 2006 Volume 2 Ch. 30: “Understanding Child Protective Services and Child Support Enforcement Services”
- 2004 Volume 2 Ch. 35: “Government Interference in Families TCPRS and A.G.: What They Can and Cannot Do”
- 2003 Volume 1 Ch. 24: “Hi! I’m From CPS and I’m Here to Help”
- 2002 Volume 3 Ch. 66: “Reporting Child Abuse: Ethical and Practical Considerations”
- 2000 Volume 2 Ch. 40: “When CPS Comes Knocking Who You Gonna Call?”

Texas Foster Youth – Resources List

<https://texasfosteryouth.org/resources-list/>

Appeals

- Appeals - Child Welfare Information Gateway
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/courts/processes/appeals>
- Appeals in Parental Termination and Child Protection Cases
<https://www.txcourts.gov/13thcoa/practice-before-the-court/appeals-in-parental-termination-child-protection-cases/>
- Toolkit for Attorneys Representing Parents and Children in Child Protection Cases
<http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/media/84707/tool-kit-for-attorneys-representing-parents-and-children-updated-bench-cards-online.pdf>
- Appeals Bench Book
<http://benchbook.texaschildrenscommission.gov/pdf/Bench%20Book%20August%202021%20MASTER%20Appeals.pdf>
- Administrative Remove of Investigative Findings (ARIF)
https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/cps/files/CPS_pg_1260.asp
- Handbook for Families Involved with Child Protective Services
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/handbook-for-families-involved-with-child-protective-services-cps>

Online Resources

Reporting Abuse Hotline: 1-800-252-5400 or www.txabusehotline.org

Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Website:
[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child Protection](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child%20Protection)

DFPS Policy Handbook:
<https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/>

DFPS Tarrant County Offices:
[https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact Us/locations.asp?r=3](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact%20Us/locations.asp?r=3)

Forms:
http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/site_map/forms.asp

Requesting a record:
<https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/policies/caserecord.asp>
<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us>

DFPS Statutes and Rules:
http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Site_Map/rules.asp

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)