

Family and Protective Services (CPS & DFPS) Research Guide

Overview

This research guide provides information and resources related to the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and Child Protective Services (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.

Related guides: Child Custody, Child Support, Grandparents and Other Nonparents, Termination of Parental Rights

Statutes & Codes

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

Texas Administrative Code (TAC)

- Ch. 700: Child Protective Services
www.sos.state.tx.us

Texas Family Code

- Ch. 107: Special Appointments, Child Custody Evaluations, and Adoption Evaluations
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.107.htm>
- Ch. 261 Investigation of Report of Child Abuse or Neglect
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.261.htm>
- Ch. 263 Review of Placement of Children Under Care of Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.263.htm>
- Ch. 264 Child Welfare Services
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.264.htm>

- Ch. 265 Prevention and Early Intervention Services
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.265.htm>

Secondary Resources in Print

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

- Texas Family Code Subtitle E: Protection of the Child Chapters 261 to 266

Texas Litigation Guide REF KFT 1730 .T4

- Vol. 23, Ch. 381 Termination of Parent-Child Relationship §381.12 Parent's Right to Counsel in Suit Filed by DFPS

Texas Family Law Practice Manual REF KFT 1294 .T4S7

- Practice Notes: §26.16 Appeals in Parental Termination and Child Protection Cases

CLE Materials

Advanced Criminal Law Course: KFT 1761 .S7

- 2021 Ch. 7 Intersection of Criminal and Family Law
- 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 Vol. 3, Chapters 49 to 59 (*Chapters 51, 53 & 54 have no articles*)

Advanced Family Law Child Abuse and Neglect Workshop KFT 1767 .C5F34

- 2021 Ch. 44 Review of Child Protection Policy Progress During the 2021 Texas Legislative Session
- 2021 Ch. 48 Children’s Commission 87th Legislative Session Update on CPS-Related Matters
- 2021 Ch. 50 Jury Charges in Parental Termination Cases after Change to Rule 277 in 2020

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

- 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
- Forms
http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/site_map/forms.asp
- Requesting a Copy of a Case Record
https://www.dfps.texas.gov/policies/Case_Records/default.asp
- DFPS Statutes and Rules
http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Site_Map/rules.asp

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

Handbook for Families Involved with Child Protective Services (Texas Law Help)

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/child-protective-services-reporting-abuse-or-neglect>

I want help and information on dealing with Child Protective Services (Texas Law Help)

<https://texaslawhelp.org/guide/i-want-help-and-information-on-dealing-with-child-protective-services/>

Family and Protective Services Topics (Texas Law Help) <https://texaslawhelp.org/cps>

Appeals

- Appeals - Child Welfare Information Gateway
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/courts/processes/appeals>
- Appeals Bench Book
<http://benchbook.texaschildrenscommission.gov/pdf/Bench%20Book%20August%202015%20MASTER%20Appeals.pdf>
- Administrative Remove of Investigative Findings (ARIF)
https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/handbooks/cps/files/CPS_pg_1260.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)

Texas Foster Youth – Resources List