

# Court-Appointed Attorneys Research Guide

## Overview

This research guide provides an overview of resources dealing with Court-Appointed Attorneys. An Attorney Ad Litem is an attorney appointed to provide legal services to a person (such as a child in some family law cases) and an amicus attorney is an attorney appointed to advise on a defendant's ability to stand trial. Attorneys ad litem are advocates for the person(s) he/she represents and enters an attorney-client relationship with that individual. Some examples of family law cases that might use attorneys ad litem are CPS cases, child custody, divorce, and adoption. An amicus attorney does not represent or assist the defendant in any way. There are also Guardians Ad Litem. Additional resources discuss court-appointed attorneys in criminal cases. 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

### Texas Family Code / Texas Legislature

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

- Chapter 107 Family Code:  
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.107.htm>

## Secondary Resources in Print

### Texas Jur III KFT 1265.T48

- Vol. 39A § 986 Adoption of children, hearing
- Vol. 40 § 1484 Child custody or support, enforcement of orders
- Vol. 40A §1897-1900 Commencement of suit involving parent and child

### Texas Litigation Guide KFT 1730.T4

- Vol. 1 § 6:23 Attorney Ad Litem
- Vol. 1 § 10:271 Appointment of Attorney Ad Litem
- Vol. 2 § 31.117 Order Appointing Attorney Ad Litem
- Vol. 22 § 370.07 Attorneys Ad Litem, Guardians Ad Litem, and Amicus Attorneys
- Vol. 23 § 381.12 Parent's Right to Counsel in Suit Filed by DFPS

### Texas Family Law Practice and Procedure KFT 1294.F35

- Vol. 1, C3.10 Requesting Guardian or Attorney Ad Litem (Divorce)
- Vol. 2, E7.102 Judgment for Payment of Attorney or Guardian Ad Litem Fees and Court Costs
- Vol. 3, H3.03 Considering Appointment of Guardian ad Litem, Attorney ad Litem, or Amicus Attorney (Modification)
- Vol. 4, R4.03 Considering Child Custody Evaluation & Appointment of Guardian or Attorney ad Litem (Paternity)
- Vol. 4, S2.03 Considering Appointment of Guardian ad Litem, Attorney ad Litem, or Amicus Attorney (Termination)
- Vol. 4, S2.100 Order Appointing Guardian or Attorney ad Litem (Termination)
- Vol. 4, T4.02 Seeking Appointment of Guardian or Attorney ad Litem (Adoption)

### Family Law at Your Fingertips: Children KFT 1294.S83 C53

- Tab 9: Amicus Attorneys and Ad Litem

### Texas Probate Forms and Procedures REF KFT 1344.T4B7

- Form 10-1.1 Application to Appoint Attorney Ad Litem
- Form 10-1.2 Order Appointing Attorney Ad Litem

## Texas Probate, Estate, & Trust Administration KFT 1344.T465

- Vol. 4, §70.12 Attorneys and Guardians Ad Litem

## Texas Pretrial Practice KFT 1737.T4B7

- Vol. 1, Ch. 6 Parties §6:22 et seq Guardian ad Litem and Attorney ad Litem

## Texas Criminal Lawyer's Handbook KFT 1775.D36

- Vol. 1, Ch. 4 Right to Counsel and Effective Assistance of Counsel

## CLE Materials

### Advanced Family Law Course KFT 1294.S83

- 2021 Ch. 11: Understanding the Amicus Statute and Making it Work for Your Case
- 2021 Ch. 53: Children in Court
- 2019 Ch. 26: Do You Have an Appointment? The Role of Amicus Attorneys, Ad Litem, Parenting Facilitators, and Parenting Coordinators
- 2019 Ch. 51: Child Clients: Difficult Issues for the Attorney Ad Litem
- 2001 Ch. 48: The Role of Ad Litem: Duties and Liabilities

### Advanced Family Law Drafting Course KFT 1294.A92

- 1999 Ch. O: Ad Litem – Pleadings, Forms, and How to Get Paid
- 1995 Ch. L: Representing Children as Guardian or Attorney Ad Litem

## Online Resources

### Texas Law Help ([www.texaslawhelp.org](http://www.texaslawhelp.org))

- Attorneys Ad Litem and Amicus Attorneys: <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/attorneys-ad-litem-and-amicus-attorneys-family-law-cases>.
- The Right to a Lawyer in Family Law Cases: <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/the-right-to-a-lawyer-in-family-law-cases>
- How Do I Get a Free Criminal Defense Lawyer: <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/how-do-i-get-a-free-criminal-defense-lawyer>

## Tarrant County District Courts:

- Lists of Attorneys and Guardians Ad Litem and Mediators: <https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/civil-courts/district-courts/appointments.html>

## Tarrant County Probate Courts:

- Ad Litem Manual: [Microsoft Word - The Ad Litem Manual for 2017.doc \(tarrantcounty.com\)](https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/civil-courts/probate-courts/probate-court-2/CHECKLIST%20FOR%20ATTORNEYS%20AD%20LITEM.pdf)
- Checklist for Attorneys Ad Litem: [http://www.tarrantcounty.com/content/dam/ma/in/probate-courts/probate-court-2/CHECKLIST FOR ATTORNEYS AD LITEM.pdf](http://www.tarrantcounty.com/content/dam/ma/in/probate-courts/probate-court-2/CHECKLIST%20FOR%20ATTORNEYS%20AD%20LITEM.pdf)
- Roles of the Guardian Ad Litem and Attorney Ad Litem: [Government Code Chapter 37. Appointments Of Attorneys Ad Litem, Guardians Ad Litem, Mediators, And Guardians \(Texas.Gov\)](https://www.texas.gov/publications/government-code/chapter-37/appointments-of-attorneys-ad-litem-guardians-ad-litem-mediators-and-guardians)
- Attorney Ad Litem under Texas Law: [https://www.easylawlookup.com/Texas-Law/Divorce-Topics/Attorney-Ad-Litem/ easylookup.blp?site=easy&=data=abccod2&subject=divorce&topic=attorney+ad+litem&simple=on&topicview=](https://www.easylawlookup.com/Texas-Law/Divorce-Topics/Attorney-Ad-Litem/easylookup.blp?site=easy&=data=abccod2&subject=divorce&topic=attorney+ad+litem&simple=on&topicview=)
- What is a Guardian Ad Litem & When is it Used in Fort Worth: <https://www.divorcelawfortworth.com/blog/what-is-a-guardian-ad-litem-and-when-is-it-used-in-fort-worth/>

## 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)