

# Death of an Attorney or Judge Research Guide

## Overview

This research guide includes information and resources to help understand your legal rights if an attorney or judge dies before the case has been finalized. 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: Attorney or Judge Grievances, Court-Appointed Attorneys*

## Statutes and Codes

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

Texas Rules of Civil Procedure

<https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards/>

- Rule 8 Attorney in Charge
- Rule 18 When Judge Dies During Terms, Resigns or is Disabled

## Secondary Resources in Print

**Texas Torts and Remedies REF KFT 1395.T49**

- Vol. 1, § 12.01 (2)(c) Death of Attorney or Client

**Texas Litigation Guide REF KFT 1730.T4**

- Vol. 1, Ch. 3 Professional Responsibility

**Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated KFT 1230.5**

- Vol. 3B, App. B, Rules of Disciplinary Procedure, Part XIII. Cessation of Practice

## Online Resources

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>

What to Do if Your Attorney Dies, Disappears, Becomes Disabled or is Suspended or Disbarred? (State Bar of Texas)

[https://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/ForLawyers/ResourceGuides1/ClosingLawPractice/What to do if.htm](https://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/ForLawyers/ResourceGuides1/ClosingLawPractice/What%20to%20do%20if.htm)

Succession Planning Toolkit (State Bar of Texas)

<https://blog.texasbarpractice.com/law-practice-management/succession-planning-toolkit>

## 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)**

