

Defamation, Libel, & Slander Research Guide

Overview

This research guide includes information and resources on defamation, business disparagement, libel, and slander. Defamation is “malicious or groundless harm to the reputation or good name of another by the making of a false statement to a third person.” (*Black’s Law Dictionary*, 11th ed.) The related terms of libel, a written form of defamation, and slander, a spoken form of defamation, are also addressed in this guide. 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

Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code (CPRC)

- Ch. 73 Libel Subchapter A. General Provisions
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CP/htm/CP.73.htm>

Secondary Resources in Print

O’Connor’s Texas Causes of Action REF KFT 1733 .O26

- Ch. 18-A Defamation
- Ch. 18-C Slander of Title

O’Connor’s Texas Causes of Action Pleadings REF KFT 1735 .A65 O36

- Ch. 18-A Defamation
- Ch. 18-C Slander of Title

Texas Litigation Guide REF KFT 1730 .T4

- Vol. 20, Ch. 333 Libel and Slander

Texas Torts and Remedies REF KFT 1395 .T49

- Vol. 4, Ch. 52 Defamation

Texas Trial Handbook 3D REF KFT 1738 .T4

- Vol. 1, Ch. 4 Jurisdiction and Venue §4:21 Other Causes (defamation)

Texas Employment Law KFT 1534 .A9T4

- Vol. 2, Ch. 29 Defamation

Texas Jurisprudence Pleading and Practice Forms KFT 1730 .A65 T482

- Vol. 8A, Ch. 157 Libel and Slander

Texas Practice Series REF KFT 1280 .T4

- Vol. 16, Ch. 30 Defamation
- Vol. 16, Ch. 31 Business Disparagement

Texas Practice Guide REF KFT 1280 .T4931

- Vol. 1, Torts §1:33 *et seq* Defamation
- Vol. 2, Torts §10:197 *et seq* Defamation Damages

West’s Texas Forms REF KFT 1268 .W47

- BUS LIT Vol. 3A, Ch. 9.11. Cause of Action for Defamation, Disparagement, and Malicious Prosecution
- CIV TR Vol. 9, §1:82 Wrongful death by suicide resulting from invasion of privacy, defamation, duress, economic coercion, and conspiracy
- CIV TR Vol. 9, §1:83 Defamation of sports celebrity

Vernon’s Texas Statutes and Codes Annotated KFT 1230.5

- CPRC, Ch. 73 Libel and Slander

West's Texas Digests KFT 1257 .W48

- Vols. 35-35A Libel and Slander

Texas Jurisprudence KFT 1265 .T48

- Vol. 50 Libel and Slander

Litigating Employment Discrimination Cases KF 8925 .D5 F75

- Vols. 1-2

Age Discrimination Litigation KF 3465 .P53

CLE Materials

Advanced Civil Trial Course KFT 1738 .A2S73

- 2019 Ch. 26: Anti-SLAPP Overview
- 2019 Ch. 27: Anti-SLAPP Statute
- 2016 Ch. 17: Motions to Dismiss Under the Anti-SLAPP Statute

Online Resources

How Long Do I Have to File a Defamation Lawsuit in Texas? (NOLO) <https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/how-long-do-i-have-to-file-a-defamation-lawsuit-in-texas.html>

Defamation of Character: Libel and Slander (Attorney Blog)
<https://texascriminaldefensegroup.com/defamation-of-character-libel-slander/>

Is Defamation Dead in Texas? (Attorney Blog)
<https://silblawfirm.com/litigation/is-defamation-dead-in-texas/>

Slander Laws in Texas (Attorney Blog)
<https://rosesanderslaw.com/slander-laws-in-texas/>

Texas Law and Defamation (Attorney Blog)
<https://freemanlaw.com/defamation/>

Anti-SLAPP Actions (Texas Law Help)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/anti-slapp-suits-frequently-asked-questions>

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)