

Paternity Research Guide

Overview

This research guide includes information and resources on paternity, including establishing paternity through the courts. A paternity case can establish the legal father for a child through the court to grant the father certain rights to the child as well as set up support for the child. This research guide is not exhaustive and may not have 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: Birth Certificates, Child Custody, Child Support, Possession Orders

Statutes and Codes

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

Texas Family Code

- Ch. 160, Uniform Parentage Act
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.160.htm>

Secondary Resources in Print

Texas Family Code Annotated KFT 1294 .A3

- Ch. 160 Uniform Parentage Act

Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated KFT 1230.5

- Family, Ch. 160 Uniform Parentage Act

Texas Family Law Practice and Procedure KFT 1294 .F35

- Vol. 4, Objective R: Determining Parentage

Texas Family Law Practice Manual KFT 1294 .T4S7

- Vol. 3, Ch. 54 Parentage

O'Connor's Texas Family Law Handbook KFT 1294 .A291 O26

- Ch.4-G Paternity

O'Connor's Texas Family Law Forms KFT 1294 .A65 W55

- Ch. 8 Suit for Parentage

Fast Guide to Family Law: Checklist for Everyday Practice KFT 1294 .A2 S83

- Parentage, p. 267

CLE Materials

Advanced Family Law KFT 1294 .S83

- 2021 Ch. 10 The More Things Change, The More They Stay the Same: SAPCR Case Law Update
- 2020 Ch. 18 Only Daddy That'll Walk the Line: Standing-Who Gets a Seat at the Table
- 2019 Ch. 25 Mom, Mommy and Daddy and Daddy, Dad and Mommy: Assisted Reproductive Technologies and the Evolving Legal Recognition of Tri-Parenting
- 2019 Ch. 27.2. UCCJEA, UIFSA, and UPA Made Easy:EPA
- 2019 Ch. 33 Ties that Bind: Gestational Agreements and Art

Online Resources

Paternity (Texas Attorney General)
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/paternity>

Paternity Definition and Court Order Process (TX Access) <https://www.txaccess.org/paternity>

Paternity FAQs (DSHS) <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/vs/faq/paternity.aspx>

Paternity (TSLL) <https://guides.sll.texas.gov/child-custody-and-support/paternity>

Paternity (Texas Law Help) <https://texaslawhelp.org/family-divorce-children/paternity>

Requirements for Changing Vital Records (DSHS) <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/vital-statistics/requirements-requesting-changing-vital-records/requirements-changing-vital-records>

Acknowledging Paternity in Birth Certificate When Father Died Before Child is Born (attorney blog) <https://www.bryanfagan.com/blog/2016/august/adding-a-deceased-father-to-a-childs-birth-certificate/>

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)