

Public Information Act Research Guide

Overview

This research guide includes information and resources on the Public Information Act. Texas Government Code, Chapter 552, or The Public Information Act (PIA) governs citizen access to government records in Texas. This guide contains state and federal resources. 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 Government Code

- Ch. 552 Public Information
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.552.htm>

The Freedom of Information Act

- 5 U.S.C. § 552
<https://www.justice.gov/oip/freedom-information-act-5-usc-552>

Secondary Resources in Print

Public Information Act 2021: Basic Information for County Officers KFT 5753.C68

Public Information Handbook KFT 1662.5 P8P82

Texas Public Information Laws KFT 1662.5 D64

CLE Materials

Advanced Administrative Law Course KFT 1640.A75S7

- 2021 Ch. 12 What is an Emergency Under the Texas Public Information Act?
- 2018 Ch. 1, Section VIII. Open Government: Public Information Act & Open Meetings Act

Advanced Government Law KFT 1399.G6 S94

- 2021 Ch. 2 Legislative Update
- 2020 Ch. 12 Texas Public Information Act 2020: Practical Tips
- 2018 Ch. 18 State Case Law Update

Government Law 101 KFT 1631.G69

- 2020 Ch. 10 Use of Social Media at Your Entity and the First Amendment, Section III. Public Information Act
- 2019 Ch. 3 Texas Public Information Act Legislative Update—2019: What's New?

Best Practices for Public Sector Lawyers KFT 1399.G6S7

- 2010 Ch. 2 Fundamentals of Open Government

Suing and Defending Governmental Entities Course KFT 1399.A75S7

- 2009 Ch. 9 Fundamentals of Open Government
- 2007 Ch. 6 Fundamentals of Open Government: A Primer on the Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act

Online Resources

Public Information Act (Tarrant County)

<https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/en/county/website-use/public-information-act.html>

The Texas Public Information Act (Texas Law Help)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/the-texas-public-information-act>

Tarrant County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service: 817-336-4101 (\$20 for the first 30 minutes)

Texas Public Information Act (Texas House of Representatives)
<https://house.texas.gov/help/website-policies/texas-public-information-act/>

Freedom of Information Act (USDOJ)
<https://www.foia.gov/>

FOIA en Español (USDOJ)
<https://www.foia.gov/index-es.html>

Texas Public Information Act Laws Made Easy (Texas Municipal League)
<https://www.tml.org/DocumentCenter/View/1834/Texas-Public-Information-Act-Made-Easy---2022-PDF?bidId=>

Public Information Act Handbook 2022 (Texas OAG)
https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/divisions/open-government/publicinfo_hb.pdf

Overview of the Public Information Act (OAG)
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/overview-public-information-act>

Attorney General Open Government Hotline
(512) 478-6736 or toll-free at 1-877-673-6839

The Public Information Act (Texas Comptroller)
<https://comptroller.texas.gov/about/policies/open-records/public-information-act.php>

Open Records Policy (Texas Secretary of State)
<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/records.shtml>

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>