

Sealing Court Records Research Guide

Overview

This research guide includes information and resources on sealing family, civil, and juvenile court records. This guide does not cover criminal sealing of records, such as expunctions or nondisclosures. 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 Family Code

- Ch. 58 Subchapter C-1 Sealing and Destruction of Juvenile Records
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.58.htm#C-1>

Texas Rules of Civil Procedure

- Rule 76a Sealing Court Records
<https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/rules-standards/>

Secondary Resources in Print

Texas Pretrial Practice KFT 1737 .T4B7

- Vol. 2, Ch. 32 §32:51 Motion to Seal Court Records

Texas Family Law Practice Manual KFT 1294 .T4S7

- Vol. 2, Ch. 26 Posttrial Proceedings and Appeals

O'Connor's Texas Rules Civil Trials KFT 1729 .A1903

- Ch. 5L Motion to Seal Court Records

Texas Civil Trial and Appellate Procedure KFT 1738 .W52

- §1.14 Sealing of Court Records

Texas Litigation Guide KFT 1730 .T4

- Vol. 6, Ch. 97 §97.25 Sealing Court Records

Texas Practice Guide KFT 1280 .T4931

- Discovery Vol. 2, Ch. 11 §11.158 Form - Motion to Seal Court Records

CLE Materials

Litigation Update Institute KFT 1738 .A2S7

- 2022 Ch. 9 Business Torts Update 2022, Sealing Records Under the Trade Secrets Act V. Rule 76A
- 2022 Ch. 18.1 Supreme Court of Texas Update; JJ. Texas Uniform Trade Secrets Act, 1. Sealing Exhibits
- 2022 Ch. 18.2 Fifth Circuit Update, Sealing, p.3

Online Resources

Juvenile Justice Records: Sealing and Restricted Access (Texas Law Help)

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/juvenile-justice-records-sealing-and-restricted-access>

Texas Juvenile Justice System Files and Records (Texas Juvenile Justice Department)

<https://www.tjjd.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/juvenile-guide-2022.pdf>

Sealed Information (Northern District of Texas)

<https://www.txnd.uscourts.gov/sealed-information>

Sensitive Data (Texas Law Help)

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/sensitive-data>

Article: Privacy and Divorce/Custody: Sealing a Family Law File (attorney blog)

<https://www.evansfamilylawgroup.com/blog/divorce-law/privacy-divorcecustody-sealing-family-law-file>

Article: Sealing Juvenile Court Records in Texas (Texas Foster Youth Justice Project)

https://texasfosteryouth.org/downloads/sealing_juvenile_records.pdf

Article: How Can I Seal My Juvenile Court Record in Texas? (attorney blog)

<https://www.anthonycantrell.com/articles/how-can-i-seal-my-juvenile-record-in-texas/#:~:text=In%20order%20to%20be%20eligible,states%20is%20%E2%80%9Cdelinquent%20conduct.%E2%80%9D>

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)