

Serving Court Documents Research Guide

Overview

This research guide includes information and forms on serving court documents to other parties involved in a court case in Texas. Some international service information is also included. 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.

Statutes & Codes

Texas Statutes www.statutes.capitol.texas.gov

Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code – Ch. 17 – Parties; Citation; Long-Arm Jurisdiction
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CP/htm/CP.17.htm>

Texas Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 99 – Issuance and Form of Citation
<https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1452743/trcp-combined-effective-september-1-2021.pdf#page=72>

Secondary Resources in Print

Dorsaneo's Texas Litigation Guide KFT 1730.T4

- Vol. 2, Ch. 31 Service on Residents
- Vol. 2, Ch. 32 Personal Jurisdiction and Service on Nonresidents

Texas Family Law Practice Manual KFT 1294.T4S7

- Vol. 1, Ch. 8 Ancillary Motions and Proceedings

O'Connor's Texas Civil Forms KFT 1735.A6503

- Ch. 1 General Trial Forms – Certificate of Service

- Ch. 2 Plaintiff's Lawsuit – Service on the Defendant

Online Resources

Texas Secretary of State – Service of Process
<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/service-of-process.shtml>

Texas Department of Insurance – Guidelines for Service of Process
<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/consumer/attyforservice.html>

An article that discusses how to serve the initial papers in a family law case is available at <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/how-serve-initial-court-papers-family-law>.

Service and Issuance of Citation When the Other Side is Incarcerated
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/service-and-issuance-of-citation-when-the-other-side-is-incarcerated>

Service by posting information (including instructions and forms) is available at <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/service-posting-when-you-cant-find-your-spouse-divorce-without-kids>.

Service by publication information (including instructions and forms) is available at <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/service-publication-when-you-cant-find-other-parent>

Justia Legal News – Service of Process in Texas Now Permitted Through Social Media and Email
<https://news.justia.com/service-of-process-in-texas-now-permitted-through-social-media-and-email/>

U.S. Immigrations and Custom Enforcement Online
Detainee Locator System
<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/index>

Federal Bureau of Prisons Inmate Finder
<https://www.bop.gov/inmateloc/>

Germany: Court Holds Service of Foreign Divorce
Papers Cannot Be Effected Via WhatsApp
<https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2021-12-28/germany-court-holds-service-of-foreign-divorce-papers-cannot-be-effected-via-whatsapp/>

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)**

