

# Termination of Parental Rights Research Guide

## Overview

This guide provides an overview of statutes and resources related to the Termination of Parental Rights, also referred to as “relinquishment” when the process is voluntary. Termination of parental rights is the legal process where the court ends the parent-child relationship between a child and one or both of the child’s parents. Related topics: Paternity and Adoption. 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 & Codes

Texas Statutes Online [www.statutes.capitol.state.gov](http://www.statutes.capitol.state.gov)

Texas Family Code

- Ch. 161 Termination of Parent-Child Relationship  
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.161.htm>

## Secondary Resources in Print

**Texas Practice Guide – Family Law KFT 1294.G33**

- Vol. 1, Ch. 10, “Parent-Child Relationship” – Part IV; “Termination of Parental Rights”

**Texas Family Law Practice and Procedure KFT 1294.F35**

- Vol. 4, Objective S, Family Law at Your Fingertips Children “Terminating Parental Rights,” Tasks S1 through S5.

**American Jurisprudence Proof of Facts**, 3d edition.

- Vol. 32, “Grounds for Termination of Parental Rights” by Jacqueline D. Stanley, J.D., pp. 83-127.

**Dorsaneo’s Texas Litigation Guide KFT 1730.T4**

- Ch. 381: Termination of Parent-Child Relationship

**Texas Family Law Practice Manual KFT 1294.T4S7**

- Vol. 4, Ch. 50 Termination
- Vol. 4, Ch. 52 Combined Termination and Adoption of Stepchild

**Texas Legal Practice Forms, 2011-2012 KFT 1268.T4**

- Vol. 1, Ch. 19 Termination of Parent-Child Relationship

**Texas Jurisprudence Pleading and Practice Forms**

- Volume 9A, Chapter 184, Part II “Forms,” Section A, Subsection 5, “Termination of Parent-Child Relationship,” §§184:97 through 184:108

**West’s Texas Forms KFT 1268.W47**

- Vol. 18, Ch. 12 Termination of the Parent-Child Relationship

**Family Law Child Abuse and Neglect Workshop 2011. KFT 1767.C5F34**

- Ch. 53 Beyond D & E: A Look at the Other 18 Grounds for Terminations

“Right to Counsel in Parental-rights Termination Cases: How a Clear and Consistent Legal Standard Would Better Protect Indigent Families” (comments) *SMU Law Review*, Vol. 63, Issue 4 (Fall 2010), pp. 1403-1436 (available on *HeinOnline*)

## CLE Materials

### Advanced Family Law Course KFT 1294.S83

- 2019 Ch. 11 Supreme Court of Texas Update, Section G. Termination of Parental Rights, p. 22-23
- 2019 Ch. 27.2 UCCJEA, UIFSA, and UPA Made Easy: UPA
- 2019 Ch. 47 Termination Case Law Update
- 2018 Ch. 3 Supreme Court of Texas Update, Section H. Termination of Parental Rights, p. 30-31

### Handing Your First or Next Termination and Adoption (PDF format only)

- 2020

## Online Resources

Termination of Parental Rights Research Guide (TSLL)  
<https://guides.sll.texas.gov/termination-of-parental-rights>

Acknowledgment of Paternity & Denial of Paternity (TexasLawHelp)  
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/acknowledgment-paternity-and-denial-paternity>

Termination (Mistaken Paternity)  
<https://texaslawhelp.org/toolkit/termination-i-want-terminate-my-rights-i-mistakenly-thought-i-was-genetic-father>

## 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)