

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 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.

Related guides: Accessing Adoption Records, Same Sex Adoption and Gestational Agreements

Statutes & Codes

Texas Statutes Online 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 Family Law Practice Manual REF KFT 1294 .T4S7

- Vol. 3, Ch. 50 Termination
- Vol. 3, Ch. 52 Combined Termination and Adoption of Stepchild

Texas Practice Guide – Family Law REF KFT 1294 .G33

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

Texas Family Law Practice and Procedure REF KFT 1294 .F35

- Vol. 4, Objective S, Family Law at Your Fingertips Children “Terminating Parental Rights”
 - Task S1 Initiating Termination Suit
 - Task S2 Conducting Termination Suit
 - Task S3 Establishing Grounds for Termination
 - Task S4 Responding to Termination
 - *has Answer templates*
 - Task S5 Obtaining Final Order in Termination Suit

O’Connor’s Texas Family Law Forms REF KFT 1294 A65 W55

- Ch. 10 Suit for Termination
 - Form 10B:1 Termination of parent-child relationship--Answer

Texas Litigation Guide REF KFT 1730 .T4

- Ch. 381: Termination of Parent-Child Relationship

Texas Jurisprudence Pleading and Practice Forms REF KFT 1265 .T48

- 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 REF KFT 1268 .W47

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

“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* at the law library)

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>

Texas Family Department of Protective Services:
Termination of Parental Rights
https://www.dfps.texas.gov/handbooks/cps/files/CP_S_pg_5560.asp

Texas Law Help (www.texaslawhelp.org)

- Acknowledgment of Paternity and Denial of Paternity
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/acknowledgment-of-paternity-and-denial-of-paternity>
- Child Protective Services (Termination of Parent Rights)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/child-protective-services-termination-of-parental-rights>
- Termination (Mistaken Paternity)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/guide/i-want-to-terminate-my-rights-i-mistakenly-thought-i-was-the-genetic-father-termination>

- Unknown Fathers in CPS and Termination Cases

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/unknown-fathers-in-cps-and-termination-cases>

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)