

# Veterans and Military Personnel Research Guide

## Overview

This research guide provides information and resources specific to military personnel, veterans, and their family members. Most resources in this guide focus on family law matters, such as temporary custody during deployment, divorce, and retirement benefits, but additional topics include overseas voting, VA benefits, and employment. 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: Child Custody, Child Support, Divorce*

## Statutes & Codes

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

Texas Family Code

- Ch. 153 §153.701 *et seq* Military Duty (custody) <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.153.htm#L>

Texas Government Code

- Ch. 657 Veteran's Employment Preferences <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/pdf/GV.657.pdf>

Texas Human Resources Code

- Ch. 137, Subchapter E. Preventative Services for Veterans and Military Families <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HR/htm/HR.137.htm#E>

United States Code

- Title 38 Veterans' Benefits and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CPRT-112HPRT65875/pdf/CPRT-112HPRT65875.pdf>

## Secondary Resources in Print

**Military Criminal Justice: Practice and Procedure KF 7620 S34**

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

- Vol. 1, Task B2 §B2.11 Obtaining Temporary Orders for Conservator on Military Duty
- Vol. 1, Task B2 §B2.100 *et seq* Motion for Temporary Order Designating Person to Substitute for Custodial Parent on Military Duty
- Vol. 2, Task F2 §F2.176 Order – Protection of Spouse's Direct-Payment Interest in Military Benefits – Rollover to CSRS
- Vol. 2, Task F2 §F2.178 Order – Military Retirement Benefits to Be Paid Directly to Spouse
- Vol. 4, Task O2 §O2.04 Understanding Non-Divisibility of Other Military Benefits

**Texas Litigation Guide REF KFT 1730 T4**

- Vol. 17, Ch. 260 Real Property Tax Suits
  - §260.01[3] Tax-exempt status of property held by disabled veterans
- Vol. 21, Ch. 351 Injuries to Seamen
- Vol. 24, Ch. 390 Initial Procedures for Probate
  - §390.02[3](15) Determination of burial benefits from the VA
  - §390.02[3](16) Determination of survivor benefits

**NOLO's Essential Guide to Divorce 9<sup>th</sup> ed. KF 535 Z9 D67**

- Ch. 12 Military Divorce: Special Issues

**NOLO's Divorced After 50: A Guide to the Unique Legal & Financial Challenges of Your Divorce 5<sup>th</sup> ed. REF KF 535 Z9 G738**

- Ch. 6 The Big-Ticket Items, Military Retirement, pgs. 173-176

## Texas Family Law Practice Manual REF KFT 1294 T4 S7

- Vol. 3, Ch. 45 Military Duty of Conservator

## Elder Law in a Nutshell KF 390 A4 F752

- Ch. 13 Veterans' Benefits

## CLE Materials

### Advanced Family Law Course KFT 1294 S83

- 2023 Ch. 14 Military Benefits and Divorce (*PDF only*)

### Marriage Dissolution Institute KFT 1300 M372

- 2024 Ch. 23 Unique Military Issues
- 2022 Ch. 5 Should've Been a Cowboy: Military Issues Other Than Retirement (*PDF only*)

### Handling Your First or Next Specialty Court Case (*PDF only*)

- 2023 Ch. 9 Serving Those Who Served: An Overview of Veterans' Treatment Courts

## Online Resources

### Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA):

- Official Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) Website  
<https://scra.dmdc.osd.mil/scra/#/home>
- American Bar Association  
[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_services/milvets/aba\\_home\\_front/information\\_center/servicemembers\\_civil\\_relief\\_act/enforcing\\_your\\_rights\\_under\\_scra/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_services/milvets/aba_home_front/information_center/servicemembers_civil_relief_act/enforcing_your_rights_under_scra/)
- United States Department of Justice  
<https://www.justice.gov/servicemembers/service-members-veterans-and-military-family-members>

### Other Resources:

- Child Support Services – Additional Resources for Veterans and Military Families (DRO)  
<https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/domestic-relations-office/child-support/additional-resources/veterans-and-military-families.html>
- Military and Overseas Voting by Mail (Tarrant County)

<https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/elections/military-and-overseas-voting.html>

- How Do I Get a Divorce from a Spouse Overseas? (attorney blog)  
[https://www.apmillerlawgroup.com/blog/2020/july/how-do-i-get-a-divorce-from-a-spouse-overseas-/](https://www.apmillerlawgroup.com/blog/2020/july/how-do-i-get-a-divorce-from-a-spouse-overseas/)
- Ch. 1 Starting the Case (The Military Divorce Handbook)  
<https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba-cms-dotorg/products/inv/book/358661525/chap1excpt-5130233.pdf>
- HEROES Program for Service Members (Texas Attorney General)  
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/heroes-program-service-members>
- Veterans' Resources Guide (TSLL)  
<https://guides.sll.texas.gov/veterans-resources>
- Veterans and Military (Texas Law Help)  
<https://texaslawhelp.org/veterans-military>
- Tips for Military Parents (MCEC)  
<https://www.militarychild.org/>
- Texas Veterans Portal  
<https://veterans.portal.texas.gov/>
- United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) <https://www.va.gov/>
- Veteran Services Tarrant County  
<https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/veteran-services.html>
- Operation Homefront  
<https://operationhomefront.org/>
- United Service Organizations (USO)  
<https://www.uso.org/>
- National Military Family Association  
<https://www.militaryfamily.org/state-of-the-military-family-programs/operation-purple/resources-for-military-families/>

## Legal Assistance

### Legal Assistance for Military Personnel

- Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (ABA)  
[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_assistance\\_military\\_personnel/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_assistance_military_personnel/)

- Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans  
<https://txltxv.org/>
  - Phone: 817-546-4460
- Legal and Financial (Texas Veterans Portal)  
<https://veterans.portal.texas.gov/legal/>
- Military OneSource provides free legal services for military personnel, their families, and veterans. Information is available at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/legal/>



