

# Wills Research Guide

## Overview

This research guide contains information and resources related to drafting wills in Texas. For information of Independent or Dependent probate administration, please see a separate handout. 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: Estate Planning, Partition, Powers of Attorney, Trusts*

## Statutes & Codes

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

Texas Estates Code

- Subtitle F: Wills – Chs. 251-258
  - Ch. 251 Fundamental Requirements and Provisions Relating to Wills  
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ES/htm/ES.251.htm>
  - Ch. 256 Probate of Wills Generally  
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ES/htm/ES.256.htm>

## Secondary Resources in Print

**Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated KFT 1230.5**

- Estates Vol. 2 – Chapters 251-258 Wills

**Texas Transaction Guide REF KFT 1268 .K45**

- Vol. 7, Ch. 42 Complete Wills and Codicils

**Texas Probate Forms & Procedures REF KFT 1344 .T4B7**

- Ch. 3 §3:20 Custodian of Will or Documents Must Deliver Them; Form 3-5 Application to Compel Delivery of Will
- Ch. 7 Independent Administration
- Ch. 8 Dependent Administration
- Ch. 9 Muniment of Title
- Ch. 13 Foreign Wills
- Ch. 15 Contested Matters, Section II. Will Contests

**Texas Litigation Guide REF KFT 1730 .T4**

- Vol. 24, Ch. 392 – Admitting Wills to Probate
- Vol. 24, Ch. 394 – Will Construction

**Wills Road Map: Practical Considerations in Will Drafting REF KFT 1344 .A95**

**Davenport's Texas Wills and Estate Planning Legal Forms REF KFT 1344 R8**

**Texas Estate Planning REF KFT 1340 .T49**

- Vol. 1, Ch. 10 Wills

**Quick & Legal Will Book (NOLO) REF KF 755 .Z9 C55**

**Plan Your Estate (NOLO) KF 750 .Z9 C65**

- Ch. 7 Wills

**Estate Planning Basics (NOLO) REF KF 750 .Z9 C554**

- Ch. 5 Wills

**8 Ways to Avoid Probate (NOLO) REF KF 750 .Z9 R35**

**Texas Probate System REF KFT 1342 .S7**

- Form 23 – Disclaim Full Interest in Estate

## CLE Materials

### Advanced Estate Planning and Probate KFT 1340 .A75S

- 2016 Ch. 14 Defenses to a Will Contest
- 2016 Ch. 15 Will Reformations and Will Constructions
- 2014 Ch. 1 Morals from the Courthouse: A Study of Recent Texas Cases Impacting the Wills, Probate, and Trust Practice, Section III – Wills

## Online Resources

### Standardized Will Forms (Texas Judicial Branch)

<https://www.txcourts.gov/forms>

### Texas Law Help ([www.texaslawhelp.org](http://www.texaslawhelp.org))

- Texas Probate Passport: Wills, Estates, Power of Attorney, and Probate  
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/texas-probate-passport-wills-estates-power-attorney-and-probate>
- Wills & Estates  
<https://texaslawhelp.org/money-debt/wills-estate-planning>
- Self-Proving Wills in Texas  
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/self-proving-wills-in-texas>
- Handwritten Wills  
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/do-it-yourself-guide-handwritten-wills>

### Research Guide – Wills (TSLL)

<https://guides.sll.texas.gov/legal-forms/wills-estates>

### Davenport's Texas Wills and Estate Planning Legal

Forms <https://davenportpublishing.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/TEXASPDF.pdf>

## 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)