

Probate: Wills Research Guide

Overview

This research guide contains information and resources related to Wills in Texas. For information of independent or dependent 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.

Statutes & Codes

Texas Statutes Online www.statutes.capitol.texas.gov

Texas Estates Code, Subtitle F: Wills – Chs. 251-258

Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated

- Estates Vol. 2 – Chapters 251-258 Wills

Secondary Resources in Print

Texas Transaction Guide KFT 1268.K45

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

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

Texas Probate Forms & Procedures KFT 1344.T4B7

Dorsaneo's Texas Litigation Guide 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 KFT 1344.A95 (Davenport Press www.davenportpress.org)

Texas Estate Planning KFT 1340.T49

- Vol. 1, Ch. 10 Wills

Plan Your Estate (NOLO) KF 750.Z9 C65

- Ch. 7 Wills

Estate Planning Basics (NOLO) KF 750.Z9 C554

- Ch. 5 Wills

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, p. 2-3.

Online Resources

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>

Texas State Law Library – Research Guide – Wills

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

Handwritten Wills (article)

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/do-it-yourself-guide-handwritten-wills>

Sample Will for Individual with children who is single, divorced, or widowed

<https://texaslawhelp.org/form/will-single-widowed-or-divorced-with-children>

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)

