

# FREE LEGAL SERVICES AND INFORMATION

## **Self Help Resources**

- Visit [www.texaslawhelp.org](http://www.texaslawhelp.org) it is a designed to help you represent yourself in court, but is very helpful when seeking legal answers. You must be willing to read and take the time needed to understand the information listed. A great resource to educate yourself!
- Texas State Law Library Self Help Resources - <https://www.sll.texas.gov/self-help/> Legal information, legal hotlines, referral sources, forms, etc.

## **Local Legal Hotlines – Free Advice Over the Phone**

- Houston Bar Association’s LegalLine (713) 759-1133 first and third Wednesdays of month 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. only [www.hba.org](http://www.hba.org)
- The Woodlands Bar Association’s Law Line (281) 645-6344 first Monday of the month 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. only
- For a complete listing visit <https://www.sll.texas.gov/self-help/where-to-go-for-help/legal-hotlines/> or search Texas Legal Hotlines

## **Child Support, Visitation and Custody Issues**

- Get help from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) – Although the OAG cannot represent you, the OAG may be able to help you get a custody, visitation, child support (including back child support) and medical support order. For information about opening a case with the OAG, call **1-800-252-8014** or visit the **Texas Attorney General Child Support Division** website <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cs/welcome-to-the-child-support-division>
- Apply for Child Support - Apply online at <https://childsupport.oag.state.tx.us> For questions regarding the application process (800) 252-8014

## **Free Legal Services**

- Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program (713) 228-0735 provides free civil legal services to low-income residents of Harris County. [www.makejusticehappen.org](http://www.makejusticehappen.org) **Areas of Law:** Most civil matters except criminal, traffic, or personal injury plaintiffs.

**Good to Know:** The HBAs Houston Volunteer Lawyers provides free legal aid to low-income individuals by connecting them with private lawyers who volunteer their time.

- Lone Star Legal Aid (713) 652-0077 provides free civil legal services to low-income clients in the Houston and east Texas area. [www.lonestarlegal.org](http://www.lonestarlegal.org) **Areas of Law:** Domestic Violence, Elder Law, Health Care, Housing, Employment, Unlawful Trade Practices, Education, Civil Rights, and Disaster Relief.

**Good to Know:** This office offers advice/legal counsel, brief services, self-help clinics, community legal education, and referrals, as well as full representation in administrative hearings and county, state, and federal courts. They **do not** assist with immigration or prisoner issues. Call for details.

### **Mediation Services – alternative to hiring attorneys**

- Dispute Resolution Center of Montgomery County, Inc. (936) 760-6914 offering low cost mediation services to avoid costly court and attorney fees [www.resolution-center.org](http://www.resolution-center.org)
- Harris County Dispute Resolution Center (713) 755-8274 offering low cost mediation services to avoid costly court and attorney fees [drc.harriscountytexas.gov](http://drc.harriscountytexas.gov)

### **Need to Hire a Lawyer?**

### **South Texas College of Law Legal Clinic**

Tel: (713) 652-0009

**Areas of Law:** Uncontested Divorces, Uncontested Probate Matters, Estate Planning.

**Good to Know:** The Law School offers direct representation in a limited number of cases. Call to learn more.

### **Texas Southern University (Thurgood Marshall School of Law – Legal Clinic)**

Tel: (713) 313-7275

**Area of Law:** Immigration, Criminal Matters (Misdemeanors), Family Law (Simple Divorces/ No property and no children), Wills & Probate Matters, ADR/Mediation.

**Good to Know:** The Law School offers direct representation in a limited number of cases. Call to learn more.

### **University of Houston Law Center (Clinical Legal Education Programs)**

Tel: (713) 743-2094

**Area of Law:** Civil, Consumer, Criminal, Immigration, Mediation.

**Good to Know:** The Law School offers direct representation in a limited number of cases. Call to learn more.

### **Veteran's Care Guide**

This guide is designed to help veterans and/or their surviving spouses determine their eligibility, explain how to apply for benefits and cover the various veteran care options.

<https://www.seniorliving.org/research/veteran-care/>

### **American Civil Liberties Union of Texas**

Tel: (713) 942-8146

**Areas of Law:** Discrimination, Election and Voting, Freedom Speech, Freedom of Religion, Immigration Rights, LGBT Rights, Privacy, Police Practices, Jail and Prison Conditions, and other issues of fair treatment by government.

**Good to Know:** The ACLU does not usually assist in the following types of cases: criminal defense or post-conviction appeals, divorce or child custody disputes, property disputes, tax problems, workers compensation issues, consumer complaints, landlord-tenant disputes, building code issues and complaints about lawyers or judges. Requests for legal assistance must be [submitted online](https://action.aclu.org/legal-intake/texas-legal-intake). <https://action.aclu.org/legal-intake/texas-legal-intake>

### **AIDS/HIV Legal Aid Program and Legal Redress Program, NAACP**

Tel: (713) 526-3389

**Areas of Law:** Estate matters, insurance, employment, social security, will, probate, landlord/tenant, powers of attorney, family law, monitor EEOC discrimination complaints, consumer problems, SSI, Social Security Disability (SSDI), government benefits.

**Good to Know:** Legal services are open to anyone who can meet the income level. You must be at or below 125% of poverty level for full representation, at or below 300% of poverty level for HIV+ and AIDS related services.

### **Texas Advocacy Project**

Tel: 800-374-HOPE

**Areas of Law:** Domestic Violence, Family Law, Sexual Assault.

**Good to Know:** This is a free statewide legal service for victims of domestic violence. They offer a legal aid hotline and direct legal services.

### **Courthouse Information Booth (Harris County Family Law Center)**

Tel: (713) 225-9455

**Areas of Law:** Divorce, Name Change.

**Good to Know:** Lawyers help unrepresented persons with filing out forms for divorce or name changes.

### **Carecen Central American Refugee Center**

Tel: (713) 665-1284

**Areas of Law:** Asylum, Domestic Violence, Immigration.

**Good to Know:** Services are by appointment only. They may charge a nominal fee. Income limits apply.

**Catholic Charities' St. Frances Cabrini Center for Immigration Legal Assistance**

Tel: (713)874-6570

**Areas of Law:** Domestic Violence, Immigration, Naturalization.

**Good to Know:** Services are by appointment only. There is a \$30 intake fee, but most legal services are free or low-cost. Representatives speak Arabic, English, French, Sign language for the deaf, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

**Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)**

Tel: (713) 228-0735, ext. 102

**Areas of Law:** Children, Immigration.

**Good to Know:** KIND helps refugee and immigrant children with a variety of immigration cases, including asylum, special immigrant juvenile status (SIJS), U and T visas, VAWA petitions, family based petitions, and other forms of protection from deportation. Clients must be under 18 years old.

**YMCA International Services**

Tel: (713) 339-9015

**Areas of Law:** Citizenship, Domestic Violence, Immigration, Refugee Assistance.

**Good to Know:** To become a client of the YMCA, attend one of their “Walk-In Wednesday” clinics every Wednesday. Call for hours.

**Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts**

Tel: (713) 526-4876

**Areas of Law:** Non-Profit Arts Organization Incorporation, Contract Drafting, Negotiation and Review, Estate Planning for Artists, Copyright, Trademark, IP, Licensing, Arts-Related Landlord/Tenant Issues, Demand Letters, Dispute Resolution / Arts Mediation.

**Good to Know:** To be eligible for services you must be an individual artist with a combined annual household income less than \$50,000 OR an arts nonprofit organization with annual gross revenue less than \$200,000 AND less than \$500,000 in assets AND be a resident of the state of Texas or organization established in the state of Texas.

**Advocate Legal Senior Center**

Tel: (713)527-4029

**Areas of Law:** Guardianship, Probate, Money Management, and Medicaid Financial Planning.

**Good to Know:** This organization offers a full range of free or low-cost legal services for seniors and guardians.

**Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic**

Tel: (713) 225-1TAX

**Areas of Law:** Taxes.

**Good to Know:** This clinic is by appointment only. Call for details.

**Houston Volunteer Lawyers Veterans Clinic**

Tel: (713) 228-0732

**Areas of Law:** Civil.

**Good to Know:** This clinic serves U.S. military veterans and spouses of deceased veterans. It runs every Friday from 2 - 4 pm.

**Texas Veterans Legal Assistance Project**

Tel: 1-800-622-2520, Option 2

**Areas of Law:** Family law, Employment, Housing, Consumer protection, Bankruptcy, Probate, Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, Military Discharge Upgrades.

**Good to Know:** This is a free, statewide legal services hotline. To receive services you must be a Texas resident, U.S. military veteran (or the spouse, dependent, or surviving spouse of a veteran), and have household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.