

Accessing Adoption Records Research Guide

Overview

This research guide contains information and resources related to requesting adoption records in Texas. For information of same-sex adoption, please see a separate handout. The resources listed below are not exhaustive, and there may be additional resources not included.

Statutes & Codes

Texas Family Code / Texas Legislature
www.statutes.capitol.texas.gov

- Ch. 107 – Special Appointment, Child Custody Evaluations, and Adoption Evaluations
- Ch. 162 – Adoption

Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated – Family Code
Location: 2 copies in stacks, (please inquire at reference desk)

Secondary Resources in Print

Texas Family Code Plus KFT 1294 O3B4

- Chapter 107 Special Appointments, Child Custody and Adoption Evaluations
 - § 107.151-107.163 Adoption Evaluations
- Chapter 162 Adoption
 - § 162.006 Access to Health, Social, Educational, and Genetic History Report; Retention

- § 162.007 Contents of Health, Social, Educational, and Genetic History Report
- § 162.0062 Access to Information, pp.821-822

Texas Family Law Practice Manual KFT 1294 T4S7

- Vol. 4, Ch. 50, "Termination"
- Vol. 4, Ch. 51, "Adoption of Child"
- Vol. 4, Ch. 52, "Combined Termination and Adoption of Stepchild"
- Vol. 4, Ch. 60, "Adoption of Adult"

Handbook of Texas Family Law: A Quick Reference Guide to the Family Code. KFT 1280 T492

- Chapters 19 and 20

Texas Practice Guide – Family Law. KFT1294 .G33

- Vol. 1, Ch. 10, "Parent-Child Relationship" – Part IV; "Termination of Parental Rights" and Part V; "Adoption."

Texas Family Law: Practice and Procedure. 2d ed. KFT1294 .F35

- Vol. 4, Objective S, "Terminating Parental Rights," Tasks S1 through S5 and Objective T, "Adopting a Minor or Adult," Tasks T1 through T6.

Texas Jurisprudence, 3d edition. Vol. 39A, Part 4 – "Parent and Child," Section XII, "Adoptions §§1017 through 1139.

CLE Materials

Advanced Family Law Course KFT 1294.S83

- 2020 Ch. 42: Adoption for Non-Adoption Attorneys
- 2020 Ch. 49 Termination Case Law Update

- 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

Online Resources

- Texas Department of State Health Services – Central Adoption Registry
<https://dshs.texas.gov/vs/adoption/registry.aspx>.
- Texas Department of State Health Services [Requesting Sealed Adoption Records \(texas.gov\)](https://dshs.texas.gov/vs/adoption/records)
- Texas Law Help article – Accessing Adoption Records in Texas
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/accessing-adoption-records-in-texas>.
- Texas Department of State Health Services – Closed Child-Placing Agencies
<https://dshs.texas.gov/vs/adoption/closed-agencies.aspx>.
- Texas Department of State Health Services – Adoption Forms
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/vs/forms.aspx#adopt>.
- Gladney Center for Adoption – Texas Voluntary Adoption Registry
<https://adoptionsbygladney.com/contact/texas-voluntary-registry>.
- Find My Family – Texas Adoption Reunion Registry
<https://www.findmyfamily.org/Texas-Reunion-Registry/page-2/>.
- Texas State Law Library Research Guide – Adoption & Termination
<https://guides.sll.texas.gov/legal-forms/adoption-termination>.
- Adoptee Rights Law Center
<https://adopteerightslaw.com/>.

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)