

Child Support Research Guide

Overview

This research guide includes information and resources related to child support in Texas. Child support is “a parent’s legal obligation to contribute to the economic maintenance and education of a child until the age of majority, the child’s emancipation before reaching majority, or the child’s completion of secondary education,” and it is “enforceable both civilly and criminally.” (*Black’s Law Dictionary, 11th ed.*). This research guide is not exhaustive and may not have 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 and Codes

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

Texas Family Code

- Ch. 154 Child Support
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.154.htm>

Texas Penal Code

- §25.05 Criminal Nonsupport
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PE/htm/PE.25.htm#25.05>

Secondary Resources in Print

Texas Family Code Annotated REF KFT 1294 .A3

- Ch. 154 Child Support

Texas Family Law Practice Manual REF KFT 1294 .T4S7

- Vol.1, Ch. 9 Child Support

Dorsaneo’s Texas Litigation Guide REF KFT 1730 .T4

- Vol. 22, Ch. 371A Child Support §371A.02
Duty to Support

Fast Guide to Family Law: Checklist for Everyday Practice: Child Support REF KFT 1294 .A25 S83

- Suit Affecting the Parent Child Relationship,
Ch. 5, Child Support, p. 237

O’Connor’s Texas Family Law Handbook REF KFT 1294 .A291 O26

- Ch. 4-F Original Suits Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship, Suit for Child Support
- Ch. 10 Enforcing Child Support Orders

Texas Family Law Practice and Procedure REF KFT 1294 .F35

- Vol. 2, Task E2, Section D. Setting Child Support
- Vol. 2, Task F1 Preparing the Final Decree, Section D. Child Support

Texas Criminal Practice Guide REF KFT 1775 .T49

- Vol. 1, Ch. 13 Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESAs) & Extradition
- Vol. 6, Ch. 130 Morals Offenses - §130.22 Criminal Nonsupport

CLE Materials

Innovations Breaking Boundaries in Custody Litigation (PDF only)

Advanced Family Law KFT 1294 .S83

- 2021 Ch. 6 Child Support: Beyond the Basics
- 2020 Ch. 36 (Your Love Keeps Lifting Me) Higher and Higher: Alternatives to Statutory Child Support Guidelines
- 2019 Ch. 31 Child Support and Possession Enforcement Trial Demonstration Facts

- 2019 Ch. 32 Above Guideline Child Support: It's Not Just for the Rich and Famous
- 2018 Ch. 39: Attorney General Special Collections Unit and the Mysteries Contained Therein
- 2018 Ch. 65: How We Mess Up Attorney General Cases
- 2011 Ch. 34: Dealing with the AG
- 2009 Ch. 49.1: The Attorney General's Child Support Division and the Private Bar
- 2009 Ch. 49.2: Versus the AG: Why Can't We Just Get Along?
- 2007 Ch. 30: Understanding the AG and CPS

Advanced Family Law Drafting KFT 1294 .A92

- 2010 Ch. 15: AG & CPS: The Attorney General's Child Support Division

Marriage Dissolution Institute KFT 1300 .M372

- 2017 Ch. 13 Child Support: Coloring Outside the Lines
- 2012 Ch. 10 Child Support-Statutory and Contractual

Online Resources

Child Custody and Support (Texas State Law Library)
<https://guides.sll.texas.gov/child-custody-and-support>

Child Support (Texas Attorney General)
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support>

Texas Law Help (www.texaslawhelp.org)

- Changing a Child Support Order
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/changing-a-child-support-order>
- Child Support and Medical Support Guide
<https://texaslawhelp.org/family-divorce-children/child-support-medical-support>
- Child Support
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/child-support>
- What to Expect in Child (IV-D) Court
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/what-to-expect-in-child-support-iv-d-court>

- Why You're in Child Support (IV-D) Court
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/why-youre-in-child-support-iv-d-court>

Child Support Compliance (Texas State Bar)

https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Dues_and_Other_Fees1&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=29049

Children's Courts (Texas Judicial Branch)

<https://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts/childrens-courts/>

Tarrant County Domestic Relations Office

<https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/domestic-relations-office/child-support.html>

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)