

Termination of Parental Rights Research Guide

Overview

This guide provides an overview of statutes and resources related to the Termination of Parental Rights, also referred to as “relinquishment” when the process is voluntary. Termination of parental rights is the legal process where the court ends the parent-child relationship between a child and one or both of the child’s parents. Related topics: Paternity and Adoption. The resources listed below are not exhaustive, and there may be additional applications not included.

Statutes & Codes

Texas Family Code / Texas Legislature

- <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.161.htm>

Texas Family Code Chapter 161 - “Termination of Parent-Child Relationship” - Location: Reference Desk for 1) **Sampson & Tindall’s Family Code Annotated KFT 1294 .A3**, and 2) **Texas Family Code (unannotated) KFT 1294 .A29**

Vernon’s Texas Codes Annotated – Family Code

Location: 2 copies in stacks, (please inquire at reference desk)

Secondary Resources in Print

Handbook of Texas Family Law: A Quick Reference Guide to the Family Code. KFT1280 .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”

Texas Family Law Practice and Procedure KFT1294 .F35

- Vol. 4, Objective S, Family Law at Your Fingertips Children “Terminating Parental Rights,” Tasks S1 through S5.

American Jurisprudence Proof of Facts, 3d edition.

- Vol. 32, “Grounds for Termination of Parental Rights” by Jacqueline D. Stanley, J.D., pp. 83-127.

Dorsaneo’s Texas Litigation Guide KFT 1730 .T4

- Ch. 381: Termination of Parent-Child Relationship

Texas Family Law Practice Manual 3rd edition. KFT1294 .T4S7 – Reference Desk and stacks (please inquire at Reference Desk)

- Vol. 5, Ch. 50, “Termination”
- Vol. 5, Ch. 52, “Combined Termination and Adoption of Stepchild”

Texas Legal Practice Forms, 2011-2012 KFT1268 .T4 – Reference Desk and stacks (please inquire at Reference Desk)

- Vol. 1, Ch. 19, “Termination of Parent-Child Relationship”

Texas Jurisprudence Pleading and Practice Forms

- Volume 9A, Chapter 184, Part II “Forms,” Section A, Subsection 5, “Termination of Parent-Child Relationship,” §§184:97 through 184:108

West’s Texas Forms KFT1268 .W47

- Volume 18, Chapter 12, “Termination of the Parent-Child Relationship”

Family Law Child Abuse and Neglect Workshop 2011. KFT1767 .C5F34

- Chapter 53, “Beyond D & E: A Look at the Other 18 Grounds for Terminations.” Brock, M. Valeria Lee.

“Right to Counsel in Parental-rights Termination Cases: How a Clear and Consistent Legal Standard Would Better Protect Indigent Families” (comments) *SMU Law Review*, Vol. 63, Issue 4 (Fall 2010), pp. 1403-1436 Viney, Elizabeth Mills

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)

CLE Materials

Advanced Family Law Course KFT 1294.S83

- 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 by Hon. Jack W. Marr
- 2019 Ch. 47: Termination Case Law Update by Jerry Reyes, et al
- 2018 Ch. 3: Supreme Court of Texas Update, Section H. Termination of Parental Rights, p. 30-31

Online Resources

Texas State Law Library (Research Guide)

- <https://guides.sll.texas.gov/termination-of-parental-rights>

Texas Law Help (www.texaslawhelp.org)

- Acknowledgment of Paternity & Denial of Paternity:
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/acknowledgment-paternity-and-denial-paternity>
- Termination:
<https://texaslawhelp.org/toolkit/termination-i-want-terminate-my-rights-i-mistakenly-thought-i-was-genetic-father>