



DALLAS COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024

What's a Law Librarian? Glad You Asked!

Dallas County is so big, it needs two courthouses. Civil legal matters are handled at the George L. Allen, Sr., Courts Building on Commerce Street. Many people who come to George Allen with questions find themselves directed to the Law Library because “the librarians will help you.”

Yes, that is true, we will! Law librarians hold a Masters Degree in Library Science, with a professional concentration in legal resources. Our reference desk at the Dallas County Law Library serves approximately 300 people a day. What do we hear?

The reference librarians kept a log of some *real, actual* questions:

- I need to get an emergency temporary guardianship today!
- These IWO forms are too confusing, even with the 7-page instructions.
- I am the grandmother, and the parents won't let me see my grandchildren. How do I get grandparent rights?
- I want to terminate my parental rights, so I don't have to pay child support.
- I need to get a court order for a VIN.
- I want to file a dismissal on a tax case. I am the defendant.
- I'm trying to collect on my judgment. I won the case, but they won't pay.
- I need to get the forms for Letters of Testamentary and become an executor.
- My father died without a will and my mother can't get in the bank account.

- I'm from Alabama and my daughter died recently in Dallas although she lived in Colorado. We recently found out she has a safety deposit box in a bank in Texas. What form do I fill out so her boyfriend can get into the box.
- I want to add my father to my birth certificate although he died 5 years ago.
- I want to appeal to the Workforce Commission's ruling against me.
- The DMV won't accept the name on my naturalization certificate.
- Can I talk to the judge?
- Why can't I talk to the judge?
- I want to file a complaint against the judge.
- I want to file a complaint against the lawyer.

As you can see, quite the variety. Law librarians refer patrons to the appropriate resources such as forms, books and online legal databases. For legal advice, we refer to the local legal organizations. Dallas County has partnered with **Legal Aid of Northwest Texas**. The organization provides legal advice, hearing preparation, assistance with drafting pleadings and documents, and Statement of Inability to Afford Court Costs to waive filing fees. The legal aid attorney is available at the law library Monday through Thursday from 8:30am to 11:30am or contact their office at **214-653-6108** to schedule an appointment. Our reference librarians also offer broad knowledge of local government and community organizations dedicated to helping people in need.

So, yes, keep on coming to the Law Library. We put the special in special librarianship!



**If you have any questions about the Library's resources,
please contact us at 214-653-7481**



DALLAS COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

**George L. Allen Sr. Courts
Building**

**600 Commerce Street
Suite B40 (Basement)**

Dallas, TX 75202

PHONE: 214-653-7481

Email:

LawLibrary@dallascounty.org

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

*Did you know the Law
Library has free access to*

WESTLAW

The Law Library has free access to Westlaw. On library public computers.

Westlaw content includes primary law, secondary resources, litigation, and Practical Law.

LEXISNEXIS

The Law Library has free access to its LexisNexis on library public computers.

LEXISNEXIS DIGITAL LIBRARY

The Law Library has free access to its LexisNexis eBook collection.

The eBook collection contains Dorsaeno's Texas Litigation Guide, Texas Family & Procedures, Search & Seizure and other valuable legal resources.

LexisNexis Digital Library can be accessed at the Law Library or remotely.

*Please visit the Law Library's website for more
information about these resources.*

Website: dallascountylawlibrary