

Law Library

Newsletter

Summer 2025



DALLAS COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

George L. Allen Sr. Courts Building

600 Commerce Street
Suite B40 (Basement)
Dallas, TX 75202

Email:
LawLibrary@dallascounty.org

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8:00AM - 4:30PM

Legal Aid of Northwest Texas

Walk In Clinic With Attorneys



Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas is offering free legal assistance to eligible applicants.

Please arrive early as applicants are seen in order of arrival.

LAPSA Wednesdays has returned to the Law Library. An attorney and intake specialist are available from 8:30 AM to Noon.

Legal Services Provided:

- Legal Advice Only - No full representation
- Hearing Preparation
- Assistance with drafting pleadings & documents
- Statement of inability to afford court costs

New from Texas Law Help

Faster Help with Texas Family Help Link.

<https://texaslawhelp.org/family-help-link>

**TEXAS
LEGAL
SERVICES
CENTER**

In one simple application, match with local legal aid and self-help resources for children and caregivers. Quickly find out if you are eligible for legal aid services, then match with organizations specializing in child and youth welfare issues, including: CPS issues, accessing government benefits, foster youth rights, protecting children from abuse and neglect, juvenile record sealing, driver's license restoration, and name changes and nonparent caregivers, such as relatives and friends.

Your issue must be related to children and youth's safety, health, and stability. For more information, visit <https://www.tlsc.org/family>.

Texas Court System

Court Structure

Each court in the Texas court system has a specific jurisdiction. Our court system is made up of:

- municipal courts;
- justice courts (justice of the peace);
- county courts;
- probate courts;
- district courts;
- business court; and
- courts of appeal.

At the highest level, the Texas Supreme Court hears civil cases and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals hears criminal cases.

For information on rules that govern court proceedings and procedures, see the Texas Court Rules page.

Common Law

Texas uses a common-law system. In a common-law system, decisions from high courts are binding on lower courts. This concept is known as setting a precedent.

Case law is derived from past decisions made by the courts. This type of law is constantly evolving because the courts are always hearing new cases and interpreting the law.

Further information can be found on the Texas State Law Library

<https://lrl.texas.gov/index.cfm>

UNT Dallas Community Lawyering Center

<https://www.untDallas.edu/lawschool/academics/community-lawyering-center.php>

Choose the location convenient to you!

The Community Lawyering Center in your neighborhood makes getting legal services easier. Since we are located nearby, visiting an attorney-supervised law student for legal assistance reduces the transportation time and effort to come to appointments.

Frazier

4716 Elsie Faye Heggins Street
Dallas, TX 75210

Downtown at Citywalk

511 North Akard, Suite 102
Dallas, TX 75201

You do not have to miss work to seek legal services. The Community Lawyering Center offers day and evening appointments during the week, plus Saturday appointments.

Estate & End of Life Planning

SAVE THE DATE August 26, 10am - 1145am -
ESTATE AND END OF LIFE PLANNING SEMINAR:
Join the Office of Dallas County Commissioner John Wylie Price for a free seminar conducted by Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas

Topics Covered Will Include:

- Transfer on Death Deeds and Lady Bird Deeds
- Advance Directives/Living Wills
- Powers of Attorney (Medical and Durable)
- Designation of Beneficiaries
- Instructions for Remains

Mesquite Government Center, Cliff Keheley
Community Room - 500 S. Galloway Avenue,
Mesquite, TX 75149

RSVP



WHO WAS GEORGE L. ALLEN, SR.?

Judge George Allen Sr. (1908-1991) was an active businessman and community leader in Dallas, establishing businesses and acting on city councils. In the 1960s, Allen served on the Committee of 14, to begin the process of desegregating Dallas schools and public spaces. He was the first Black member of a Dallas City board, when he was appointed to the City Plan Commission in 1963. And in 1969, Allen became the first Black Dallas City Council member, and eventually the first Black Mayor Pro-tem. In these positions, he focused on the issues of civil rights and housing discrimination. Allen resigned from his position on Dallas City Council in 1975 to take on the role of Justice of the Peace until his death in 1991.

<https://exhibits.library.unt.edu/black-living-legends/politics/>



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.

Westlaw

The Law Library has free access to Westlaw.

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

Westlaw can be accessed at the Law Library.

How to Find Reliable Texas Legal Help Online

Find people & guides to help you with problems like divorce, custody, evictions, debt collection, traffic tickets, and other legal problems. And take care to avoid bad information.

Where to Find Expert Legal Help

Connect with free or paid Oregon lawyers, do-it-yourself guides, and law librarians that can assist you.

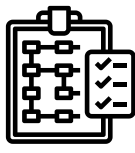
Scan this QR code to follow the links below.



Law Libraries

Get help with legal research, find forms, and more with a law librarian

<https://guides.sll.texas.gov/>



DIY Guides

Use step-by-step guides, form-filling tools, and other resources.

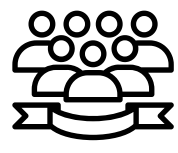
<https://texaslawhelp.org/>



Free Chat

Chat with a volunteer lawyer about your legal issue.

<https://texaslawhelp.org/as-k-a-question>



Dallas Lawyer Referral

This service provides referrals to experienced private lawyers by area of law for representation on a fee basis.

dallaslawyerreferralservice.com

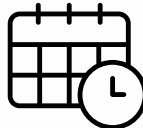
3 Questions to Avoid Bad Legal Information

Ask these questions to make sure you are getting correct, trustworthy legal help online.



Is the legal info meant for your location?

Make sure it's for your city, county, or state. Or else it could be wrong for you.



Is the info up-to-date?

Laws and paperwork change all the time. Check when the info was last updated, to make sure it still applies.



Is the info from a trustworthy expert?

Or is it from someone with limited legal experience? Or could it be a scam?

Be Careful with AI Tools

like ChatGPT, Copilot or Gemini

Always double-check any legal information an AI tool gives you.

A law librarian or a lawyer can help you double-check. Or you can do your own legal research, to verify the info.

AI can make up fake laws, cases, legal aid groups, hotlines, forms, and other legal info.

AI tools may seem confident in their answers. But they make many mistakes.