

**This is a list of some things clerks and court personnel can and cannot do.**

<b>We can</b>	explain and answer questions about how the court works.	<b>We cannot</b>	tell you whether or not you should bring your case to court.
<b>We can</b>	provide the number of the local lawyer referral service, legal services program, Texas State Bar lawyer referral service, and other services where legal information is available.	<b>We cannot</b>	tell you what words to use in your court papers. However, we will check your papers for completeness. For example, we check for signatures, notarization, correct county name, correct case number and presence of attachments.
<b>We can</b>	give general information about court rules, procedures and practices.	<b>We cannot</b>	recommend what to say in court.
<b>We can</b>	provide court schedules and information on how to get a case scheduled.	<b>We cannot</b>	give an opinion about what will happen if you bring your case to court.
<b>We can</b>	give you information from your case file.	<b>We cannot</b>	talk to the judge for you or let you talk to the judge in private.
<b>We can</b>	give you samples of court forms that are available.	<b>We cannot</b>	change an order signed by a judge.
<b>We can</b>	usually answer questions about court deadlines.	<b>We cannot</b>	tell you what deadlines apply in your case.

**Please Do Not Ask Clerks For Legal Advice**  
**Unauthorized Practice of Law**  
**Government Code, Sec. 81.101**

Clerks cannot give advice or the rendering of any service requiring the use of legal skill or knowledge, such as preparing any instrument.

## Resources and Referral Information

### Texas Law Help

[www.texaslawhelp.org](http://www.texaslawhelp.org)

The Texas Law Help website is a resource for people who do not have an attorney.

Topics offered on the website include:

- Civil Rights
- Consumer Cases
- Wills and Estates
- Family Law
- Forms & Instructions
- Juvenile Cases
- Landlord Tenant
- Mediation
- Domestic Violence
- Seniors
- Spanish Resources
- Veteran Issues

### Alternative Dispute Resolution

<http://www.texasadr.org/>

Going to court litigation may not always be the best way to resolve a problem. Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is one way to work out an agreement. Mediation and arbitration, for example, both involve neutral, third parties who may facilitate a resolution. ADR can be used for many types of cases, including co-parenting, divorce, probate, contract disputes, other civil cases and appeals.

### Legal Assistance Organizations and Other Non-Profit Organizations

[www.texaslawhelp.org](http://www.texaslawhelp.org)

[www.lsc.gov](http://www.lsc.gov)

Contact information for Texas agencies and organizations such as Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Lone Star Legal Aid, Advocacy, Inc., Texas Legal Services Center's Legal Hotline for Texans, and the Texas Advocacy Project's Family Law Hotline and Family Violence Hotline, and immigration law resources. On the Texas Law Help website, select the *Find Legal Assistance* tab. This tab also contains information about other organizations that assist with various legal problems, including consumer protection, landlord-tenant, OSHA complaints, complaints about nursing homes, and assistance with utility companies. On the Legal Services Corporation website, select Texas on the map of the United States. Most legal aid programs have income guidelines that determine the people or families they can serve. Persons must apply for assistance. Because of resource limitations, not everyone who qualifies will receive assistance.

### State Bar of Texas

[www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com)

The State Bar of Texas Client-Attorney Assistance Program helps resolve problems between clients and attorneys. Also, a person with a complaint against an attorney may file a formal complaint ("grievance") against the attorney with the State Bar. On the State Bar's website, select *Client Assistance & Grievance* for more information. The State Bar's Texas Lawyers Care department publishes a [referral directory of legal services and other resources](#) for low-income Texans.

## Texas Law Libraries

Law libraries have print and online resources including statutes, regulations, court rules, and court decisions, as well as legal encyclopedias, form books, and books about specific areas of law. Most law books are written for legal professionals, but some books are written for non-lawyers. Law library staff cannot give legal advice, but they can show people how to use their resources.

Texas State Law Library  
[www.sll.state.tx.us](http://www.sll.state.tx.us)  
205 West 14th Street Austin,  
Texas 78701-1614 (512) 463-  
1722

## Texas Statutes and Legislative Process

[www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us](http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us) (Statutes)  
[www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us) (Texas Legislature)

The first website contains state statutes. The second website contains information about bills in the Texas Legislature and the legislative process.

## Texas Court System

[www.txcourt.gov](http://www.txcourt.gov)

The Texas Judicial Branch website contains information about the Texas court system.

## Texas Forms

Legal form books provide sample language that can be used to prepare documents to file with the court. Some forms are fill-in-the-blank, while others only provide language that must be tailored to the situation. Forms are not available for every situation.

- Some courts have forms available online or in the clerk's office or county law library. Check on your court's or county's website.
- Some court forms are available at <http://texaslawhelp.org/resource/texas-forms> (click on *a list of forms and topics*.)
- Texas continuing legal education materials often include forms. Search the catalogs of university law libraries for the relevant topic, such as contracts, and include "Texas" in the search.

The Leon County District Clerk does not supply forms.