



## Finding Legal Help in Texas

A practical guide to legal aid, lawyer referrals, self-help information, and court resources

**Start here:** The right resource depends on your legal issue, county, income, and case complexity. Legal-aid organizations have eligibility requirements and limited capacity, so applying does not guarantee representation.

### 1. If You Cannot Afford a Lawyer

Start with a civil legal-aid organization that serves your county. Be ready to provide household, income, legal-issue, and deadline information.

#### **Lone Star Legal Aid**

**Best for:** Low-income Texans in its 76-county service area, including Harris, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Montgomery, and surrounding counties. Lists family-law assistance for divorce/annulment, custody/visitation, child and spousal support, family violence, paternity, guardianship, adoption, and other family issues.

**Phone:** 800-733-8394

[Visit official website](#)

*Financial and legal eligibility requirements apply; assistance may be limited when full representation is unavailable.*

#### **Houston Volunteer Lawyers**

**Best for:** Eligible low-income individuals in the Houston area seeking civil legal assistance.

Connects volunteer attorneys with low-income individuals. Listed family-law areas include divorce, custody/visitation, support, and name changes.

[Visit official website](#)

*Acceptance depends on eligibility, available volunteers, and case type.*

### 2. Free Texas Legal Information & Self-Help

Use these resources to understand procedures, locate forms, and determine what kind of help you may need.

#### **TexasLawHelp.org**

**Best for:** Texans seeking plain-language legal information, self-help guides, forms, and instructions.

Includes divorce, custody/visitation, child support, nonparent caregivers, paternity, court procedure, protective orders, and guides for self-represented family-law litigants.

[Visit official website](#)

#### **Texas Court Help**

**Best for:** People representing themselves or trying to understand the Texas court system.

Provides general information about finding a lawyer, forms, legal research, filing a case, preparing for court, and court procedures.

[Visit official website](#)

#### **Texas Judicial Branch - Self-Help**

**Best for:** Self-represented litigants seeking statewide court-system resources.

Directs users to TexasLawHelp, Texas Court Help, State Law Library resources, forms, and lawyer-referral information.

[Visit official website](#)

### 3. If You Can Pay for a Lawyer but Need Help Finding One

A lawyer referral service can help locate a licensed attorney. A referral is not legal aid and does not mean representation will be free.

#### **State Bar of Texas Lawyer Referral & Information Service (LRIS)**

**Best for:** People who need help locating a private attorney.

Provides attorney referrals. Current State Bar materials state that referred callers may receive an initial consultation of up to 30 minutes for no more than \$20; later representation and fees are arranged directly with the attorney.

**Phone:** 800-252-9690

[Visit official website](#)

*LRIS is not a pro bono program. Confirm current terms when requesting a referral.*

### 4. Houston-Area Legal Research & Court Resources

Law librarians cannot give legal advice, but they can help locate legal information, forms, research materials, legal-aid organizations, and attorney-referral services.

**Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library**

**Best for:** Self-represented litigants and the public seeking legal information or research assistance.

Offers legal research materials, forms, reference help, legal-aid/referral information, and LAWPods at participating Harris County Public Library branches.

**Phone:** 713-755-5183

[Visit official website](#)

1019 Congress Street, 1st Floor, Houston, Texas 77002.

**Fort Bend County Law Library / Fort Bend County Libraries**

**Best for:** Fort Bend County residents seeking legal research and self-help materials.

County resources include a law library and self-help/pro se materials. Librarians cannot provide legal advice or recommend specific forms.

**Phone:** 281-341-3718

[Visit official website](#)

## 5. Before You Contact Legal Aid or a Lawyer

Have the following information ready:

- County of residence and filing county, if a case exists
- Court papers, orders, citations, motions, and notices
- Short timeline and what you are asking the court to do
- Immediate safety concerns or protective orders
- Case number, hearing date, answer deadline, or other deadline
- Names/ages of children involved, if applicable
- Household-income information for legal-aid intake
- Organizations/attorneys already contacted

## 6. When Speaking With a Lawyer Is Especially Important

Consider individualized legal advice when a case is contested, the other party has a lawyer, significant assets or debts are involved, there are jurisdiction or out-of-state/international issues, there are safety concerns, or you are unsure what a court order requires.

**International or out-of-state issues:** If a spouse, parent, or child lives outside Texas or outside the United States, jurisdiction, service, custody, support, or enforcement may be more complicated. A family-law attorney can evaluate the facts of your situation.

## 7. Keep Track of Your Contacts

Record the organizations or attorneys you contact and your next steps.

| Organization / Attorney | Date | Result / Next Step | Follow-Up |
|-------------------------|------|--------------------|-----------|
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**Important:** This guide provides general educational information, not legal advice. AACF does not provide legal representation through its Family Resource Center and does not guarantee that a listed organization will accept a case or provide services. Eligibility, contact information, and availability may change; verify current information directly with the organization.

Resource information verified August 2026. External organizations are independent of Amos Advocates Community Foundation unless specifically stated.