



The Information Edge

Current Legal News from Collin County's Curt B. Henderson Law Library

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Useful Internet Sites and Articles

ImmigrationHelp.org

Their mission is to help immigrants find freedom, opportunity, and love in the United States—without the high cost of an attorney.

From their FAQ page:

How is ImmigrationHelp free?

1. They use first-class technology to prepare your immigration application.

They believe that most people can safely apply for immigration statuses like DACA, Green Cards, and Citizenship without a lawyer when they have access to the right tools. That's why their team of lawyers and technologists have built world-class technology that prepares immigration applications for users who have straightforward cases. Most people will be eligible to use the free tool safely and successfully. If you do not qualify for their service, they will tell you and will refer you to other free resources so that you get the help that you need. Since their technology automates the application process, it does not cost them very much to provide this free resource.

2. They are funded by people who believe in the mission.

They received money to start ImmigrationHelp.org from Harvard University. Since then, they have been fortunate to receive funding from charitable foundations like the Emergent Fund, the Charles Koch Institute, KKR Relief Fund, and Google.org. They also receive funding from successful entrepreneurs like Miles Lasater who wants to give back, and from dozens of small-dollar donors who generously give what they can to support their work. Their donors make this work possible, and they are incredibly grateful for their support and belief in the mission.

3. Some users qualify for extra help.

Most people use the free tool, but some decide they want a little more hands-on help. These users pay for 1-on-1 consultations with their legal team in the form of strategy calls and document reviews. The revenue from these paid services helps them maintain the free tools.

How does ImmigrationHelp spend money?

Their number one expense is salaries for team members. They want to create a culture where talented lawyers, technologists and content creators can do the best work of their lives in support of the mission. Attracting and retaining these talented people costs money. They also spend money on office rent, software, insurance, and marketing. In addition, they spend a small amount of money on accounting, team building, and office supplies.

Who owns ImmigrationHelp?

ImmigrationHelp.org is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. This means that regular Americans own ImmigrationHelp just as much as the team and founders do. ImmigrationHelp believes society is all in this together, and they are honored to work with their clients to make America a more welcoming place for immigrants.

Their library of free study guides is extensive and covers a wide range of topics such as Asylum, Citizenship, Green Cards, DACA, K-1 Visas, Work Permits, and more.

They can be accessed [here](#) at immigrationhelp.org.



**Immigration
Help.org**

Copies of these articles are available in the library, or from the law librarian via email:
jsims@co.collin.tx.us

Texas Fresh Start Guide

Texas Law Help has provided a free app to help you find out if you are eligible for an expunction or order of nondisclosure in Texas. Both are procedures used to clean up adult criminal history records. This can make it easier for people to find employment, earn professional licenses, and improve credit scores.

- **Expunction (record clearing)** can permanently remove entries from an adult criminal history record.
- **Nondisclosure (sealing)** hides certain offenses from public disclosure, but the offense are still visible to criminal justice agencies, licensing agencies, and certain government entities. Eligibility for Non disclosure will depend on the type of offense you committed and whether the court put you on deferred adjudication.

To use this app, **you will need to know:**
the **type of crime(s)** you want to clear,
the **type of court** that handled your case,
the **outcome of your case**, and
any **significant dates**.

Do not use the app to address federal crimes or acts committed while a minor.

Learn more and access the toolkit at the following link or by googling “Texas Fresh Start Guide”:

<https://georgetown.neotalogic.com/a/TexasFreshStartV2>



Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (LANWT)

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas is offering free pro-se assistance to those who qualify every Thursday in the conference room of the 429th District Court in the Collin County Courthouse.

For more information please contact:

(972) 542-9405

*Do I benefit from **LEGAL AID?***



Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (LANWT) offers free civil legal assistance to low-income Texans who wouldn't otherwise be able to secure such legal representation.

Practices include:

- Support for Families
- Preserving the Home
- Maintaining Economic Stability

- Safety, Stability and Health
- Individuals with Special Needs
- Problems Affecting Groups of Individuals

2023 Child Protection Law Bench Book

Contact Information:

Jonathan Sims
Law Librarian
Email:
jsims@co.collin.tx.us

Hours of Operation:
Monday—Friday
8:00 am—5:00 pm

Note: Computers will
automatically log off
at 4:50 p.m.

The Children's Commission publishes a Texas Child Protection Law Bench Book (Bench Book) which outlines the state and federal statutory requirements for judges handling child welfare cases. The Bench Book also includes topical sections as well as statutory and case law citations, which are linked online. The Bench Cards provide high-level legal and topical information through at-a-glance, easy-to-use checklists that outline relevant laws at the various stages of a child welfare case as well as by topic (i.e., education, human trafficking).

The Bench Book is updated annually and was revised in October 2023 to include updates throughout from the 88th Regular Legislative Session and new chapters on the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and domestic violence. Additionally, there is a new Bench Card on remote hearings.

The Bench Book is available [online](#) as a free, downloadable PDF for print and also as an interactive resource through LawBox.



Did You Know?

Texas Law Help maintains an event page/calendar where those in need may be able to track down legal assistance from attorneys and discuss a legal issue one-on-one at a clinic hosted by a reliable nonprofit partner. Most clinics offer virtual appointments in order to maintain COVID-19 safety protocol.

Visit texaslawhelp.org/events for more info

**TEXAS
LAW
HELP
.ORG**

Important Announcement

Please keep in mind that if you are not comfortable visiting the library in person to do research during the pandemic, we have a number of resources available online. While we cannot provide legal advice, we may be able to guide you to the resources or forms necessary to assist you in your situation.

Library staff may be reached at 972-548-4255 or 972-548-4260.



New on the Shelf

- ♦ Federal Court of Appeals Manual—2024
- ♦ O'Connor's Federal Civil Forms—2024
- ♦ Bender's Immigration and Nationality Pamphlet Act—2024
- ♦ O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action Pleadings—2024
- ♦ Texas Employment Codes—2023-24
- ♦ Texas Property Code—2024
- ♦ Texas Local Government Code—2024
- ♦ Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual—2023-24
- ♦ Texas Corporation and Partnership Laws—2024
- ♦ Texas Business & Commerce Code—2023-24
- ♦ Texas Business Organizations Code—2023-24



HAPPY
MEMORIAL
Day

The Law Library

will be closed

May 27th for Memorial
Day and July 4th for Independence Day.

HAPPY
Independence
4TH OF JULY Day

Legal Humor



"The prosecutor says you have to roll over."