



The Information Edge

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

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WWW.COLLINCOUNTYTX.GOV

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Useful Internet Sites and Articles

Equal Justice Center

- What is the EJC?

EJC has offices in Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio and provides legal help and advocacy throughout the State of Texas. The EJC fights to ensure that all workers can enforce their basic rights in the workplace, and works to empower working families in Texas to achieve fair treatment in the justice system.

Legal Action to Support Workers' Rights

The EJC provides direct legal representation to individuals to enforce their rights in the workplace. Through their legal assistance, they show workers how they can access the justice system and enforce their basic employment rights at work, regardless of their immigration status. Since 2003, the EJC has helped low-income working people recover over \$12.5 million dollars in unpaid wages. Their employment law representation helps workers who have not been paid at all for their work; workers who have not been paid the legal minimum wage, overtime wages, or prevailing wage rates; low-wage workers who have experienced workplace discrimination, including sexual harassment; and working people who have suffered retaliation for speaking up about their wages or working conditions.

The EJC provides specialized employment law help to survivors of sexual assault, including victims of sexual assault in the workplace and other survivors who need their employer's accommodation, support, and protection. The EJC's legal representation can help survivors sustain stable employment, gain security in their workplace, recover compensation for injuries, and hold culpable employers properly accountable. In addition, the EJC collaborates with other service providers across Texas to provide holistic support and assistance to survivors

of sexual assault. Proactively, the EJC also works to encourage employers to adopt work safety practices that prevent sexual assault in the workplace.

The EJC provides specialized employment law help to temporary foreign guest workers who are often exploited while working in the U.S. through temporary visa programs, such as the H-2B, H-2A, and J-1 programs. They also specialize in providing legal services to survivors of labor trafficking.

Workers' Rights Education

They work closely with their clients, so that they will learn how to be strong advocates for their own workplace rights, how to use the legal system more effectively, how to advocate collectively with other workers and organizations, and how to teach these skills to others. They conduct employment rights education programs that empower low-income working people with knowledge about their rights and how to enforce those rights safely and effectively.

DACA

As a part of the Equal Justice Center's mission of empowering working families to obtain fair treatment in the workplace and society, the EJC provides legal assistance to undocumented students and graduates undergoing the renewal process for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). They have helped well over a thousand individuals across Texas obtain temporary protection from deportation and employment authorization through DACA, which allows these young people to secure better jobs and earnings and a better future for themselves and their families.

EQUAL

JUSTICE

CENTER

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 Nondisclosure 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

2024 Child Protection Law Bench Book

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).

While the Bench Book was originally designed for and is primarily used by judges, many attorneys and other child welfare stakeholders may also find it to be informative and helpful. Although the Commission has a limited number of printed copies for distribution to judges, the Bench Book is available at no cost.

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



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.

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.





**The Law
Library
will be closed on
Monday,
September 2nd
for Labor Day**



New on the Shelf

- ◆ Texas Criminal Procedure—Code and Rules 2024 Edition
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Civil Forms 2024
- ◆ Texas Family Code 2024-25
- ◆ Federal Civil Judicial Procedure and Rules—2024 Revised Edition
- ◆ Federal Criminal Code and Rules—2024 Revised Edition
- ◆ Federal Criminal Appeals—2024 Edition
- ◆ Texas Property Code Plus—2024-25
- ◆ Texas CPRC Plus—2024-25
- ◆ Texas Family Code Annotated—August 2024 Edition
- ◆ Texas Estates Code Plus—2024-25



Legal Humor



"Could my client be innocent? Probably not. My point is it's interesting to think about."