



# 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 de-

cide 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](http://immigrationhelp.org) at immigrationhelp.org.



**Immigration  
Help.org**

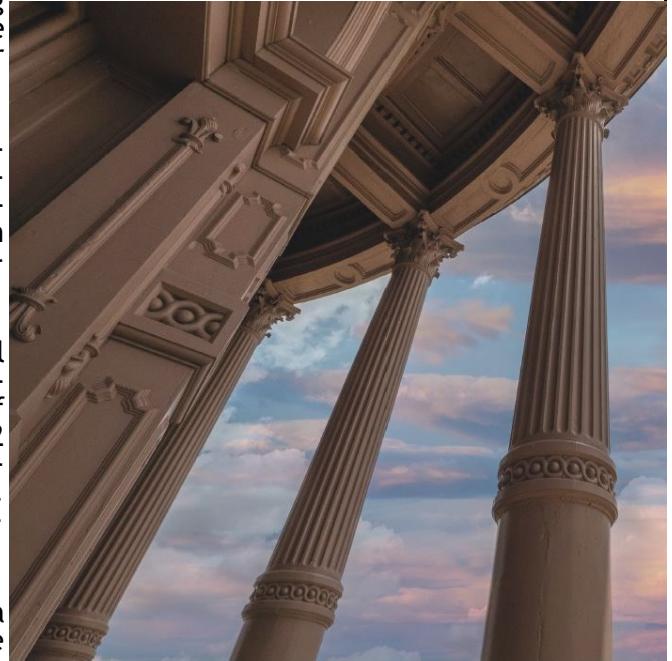
Copies of these articles are available in the library, or from the law librarian via email:  
[bfansler@co.collin.tx.us](mailto:bfansler@co.collin.tx.us)

## Texas Judiciary Legislative Update (87th Legislature)

The Office of Court Administration has released the Texas Judiciary Legislative update for the 87th Legislature. The 66 page report covers a wide range of House and Session Bills that cover things from Family Law to Probate.

Examples include:

- HB 3289 which creates a civil penalty for violating provisions of the Agriculture Code related to the protection of pecans or pecan trees from disease or pests.
- SB 181 which sets fine for certain drug and controlled substance act convictions. Reduces mandatory license suspensions for conviction of a drug offense. Permits court to waive suspension for certain defendants and permits those subject to the suspension to take certain drug education courses online
- HB 246 which prohibits the release to the general public the name of an employee of a public or private primary or secondary school who is accused of committing an offense under Penal Code § 21.12 (Improper Relationship Between Educator and Student) until the employee is indicted for the offense. Allows for certain release of the accused's name regardless of indictment in certain circumstances.
- HB 558 which requires a peace officer to take a blood specimen on arrest for an intoxication offense under certain circumstances where the driver was involved in an accident the officer reasonably believes occurred as a result of the offense and, at the time of the arrest, the officer reasonably believes that as a direct result of the accident any individual has died, will die, or has suffered serious bodily injury.



**Texas Judiciary  
Legislative Update**

Texas Judicial Council  
87th Legislature

The report can be reviewed on [here](http://txcourts.gov) on txcourts.gov.

## Tech Tips: More Useful Sites and Law Blogs

- <https://www.raicestexas.org/>
- RAICES is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that promotes justice by providing free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families, and refugees. With legal services, social programs, bond assistance, and an advocacy team focused on changing the narrative around immigration in this country, RAICES is operating on the national frontlines of the fight for immigration rights.



## 2021 Child Protection Law Bench Book

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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 2021 to include updates throughout from the 87th 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?

The Office of Court Administration launched the Public Safety Report System (PSRS) on April 1. It is used to generate a Public Safety Report that must be considered by judges before setting bail.

The report contains:

- Summary of individuals criminal history
- Eligibility for personal bond
- Other important information regarding bail data.

For more information on the PSRS check out the [PSRS Resource Page](#)

### 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, May 30th for Memorial Day and Monday, July 4th for Independence Day.**



## New on the Shelf

- ◆ Police Misconduct Law and Litigation—2021-22 Edition
- ◆ Federal Employment Codes Plus—2022-23
- ◆ Bender's Immigration and Nationality Act Pamphlet—2022
- ◆ Rights of Juveniles 2d—2022
- ◆ Texas Criminal Codes Plus—2021-22
- ◆ Texas Forms—Real Estate 2022
- ◆ Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual—2021-22
- ◆ Texas Criminal Lawyer's Handbook—Revision 22
- ◆ Texas Criminal Procedure—Code and Rules—2022 Edition
- ◆ Texas Property Code—2022 Edition
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Family Law Handbook—2022 Edition



## Legal Humor



**"The prosecutor says you have to roll over."**