

THE INFORMATION EDGE

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

Issue 2025-04

www.collincountytx.gov

Winter

Nov 2025 - Jan 2026

Listen & Learn Hour

Do you have an open custody or modification case?

We're excited to host our first **Law Library Listen & Learn Hour** with guest speaker Attorney Kamisha Dumas from Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas. This first workshop will cover custody and modification cases. Please join us in the Law Library on:

**Thursday, January 15, 2026,
12:30 p.m. -1:30 p.m.**

For more information, email us:
lawlibrary@co.collin.tx.us

Pro Se Clinic

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas provides legal help for qualifying low-income people on **Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** in the **429th District Court**

Reminders

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Payment Policy: **CASH** only

Copies and Forms:

\$0.10/page,

rounded down to the nearest dollar

Note: Computers automatically delete downloads at 4:50 PM

Library Closures

The Law Library will be closed:

**Thu, 11/27/25 - Fri, 11/28/25 for
Thanksgiving;**

**Thu, 12/25/25 - Fri, 12/26/25 for
Christmas;**

Thu, 01/01/26 for New Year;

Mon, 01/19/26 for MLK Jr. Day

Contact Info

Email: lawlibrary@co.collin.tx.us

Phone: **972-548-4255**

Kimberly Manzano, Law Librarian

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89th Legislative Session Updates

H.B. 1973; Birth Certificate Requirement In S.A.P.C.R. Cases:

H.B. 1973 amends the Family Code to require a petitioner in a Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship (S.A.P.C.R.) to additionally submit to the court a certified copy of the child's birth certificate if available to the petitioner.

If a certified copy is not available to the petitioner, the court at any time during the pendency of the suit may request another party to whom a certified copy of the child's birth certificate is available to submit a copy to the court. However, if a certified copy of the child's birth certificate is not available to any party or if the birth certificate does not name both of the child's parents, the court may request from any party at any time during the pendency of the suit alternative proof of the identity of the child's parents. The bill requires the court to keep confidential any birth certificate or other proof submitted under the bill's provisions.

Effective date: September 1, 2025.



H.B. 8; Elimination of STAAR Test

Texas House Bill 8 (HB 8) is a significant education reform that replaces the STAAR test with a new assessment system, the "Student Success Tool," beginning in the 2027–28 school year. Key points include transitioning to a through-year model with beginning, middle, and end-of-year tests, which will provide faster results for parents and teachers. The bill also eliminates some high-stakes end-of-course exams, introduces changes to school accountability measures, and prohibits certain redundant benchmark tests.

Effective dates: December 2025 and September 2026.





Firearms and Felonies

Do you have a felony criminal conviction and want to pursue restoration of your gun rights?

Texas and Federal Law differ.

Under Texas Penal Code Section 46.04, people with felony convictions cannot possess a firearm. However, if 5 years have passed since the completion of the sentence (including parole or probation), the law allows them to have a gun in their home.

18 U.S. Code Section 922 does not allow a person convicted or indicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term of more than one year to possess a firearm. This generally applies to felony convictions but might include some misdemeanors. Unlike the Texas law, federal law does not allow possession at any point after a conviction.



Firearms and Family Violence Misdemeanors

Both Texas law (Texas Penal Code 46.04) and federal law (18 U.S. Code Section 922) prohibit people with family violence misdemeanor convictions from possessing firearms.

However, Texas law allows a person with a Class A misdemeanor family violence conviction to possess a firearm 5 years after completing their sentence (including parole or probation). Federal law does not permit this.

For more information, check out:
<https://www.sll.texas.gov/faqs/gun-felony-conviction/>



New on the Shelf

- Bad Faith Actions - Liabilities & Damages 2025-2026
- O'Connor's Texas Crimes & Consequences 2025-2026
- O'Connor's Texas Criminal Codes Plus 2025-2026
- O'Connor's Texas Estates Code Plus 2025-2026
- O'Connor's Texas Property Code Plus 2025-2026
- Texas Criminal Forms, Revision 19, Volumes 1-2
- Texas Criminal Jury Charges, Revision 24, Volumes 1-2
- Texas Family Law Practice Manual, Volumes 1-3
- Texas Probate System 2024
- Texas Estate Planning Revision 11

Legal Humor

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"I didn't ask for a nuanced explanation, it's a very simple question. Is he or is he not on the naughty list?"