

LEGAL AND OTHER RESOURCES RELATING TO CRIMINAL MATTERS

If a public defender office is available in a particular county (see below), defendants should contact the public defender office. In criminal matters that could result in incarceration, indigent defendants should contact a magistrate, jailer, court administrator, or judge to request a court appointed lawyer. In matters involving a Class C misdemeanor (where no possible jail time is part of the sentence), there is no right to a court appointed lawyer.

JUVENILE PUBLIC DEFENDER

If a juvenile (ages 10-16) is charged with a crime, it may be considered a civil matter and legal aid may be able to help (see first program listed for the county in which the juvenile is being charged). In addition to contacting legal aid, a list of public defender offices that handle indigent juvenile defense is below.

Cameron County Juvenile Public Defender
956-399-3075 (Main Office)
Represents juvenile offenders

Caprock Regional Public Defender Office
806-742-2570 (Main Office)
www.law.ttu.edu/acp/programs/clinical/crpd
Indigent criminal defense in misdemeanors, felonies, and juvenile cases appointed by judge (includes Armstrong, Briscoe, Collingsworth, Cottle, Dawson, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hardeman, Kent, King, Knox, Motley, Stonewall, and Swisher counties)

Dallas County Public Defender – Juvenile Division
214-698-4400 (Main Office)
www.dallascounty.org/departments/pubdefender
Represents juveniles charged with delinquent conduct

Earl Carl Institute For Legal & Social Policy, Inc.– Juvenile Justice Project
713-313-1139 (Main Office)
www.earlcarlinstitute.org/Centers/Criminal_Justice/Juvenile_Justice.shtml
Represents juveniles in Class C Misdemeanor School Ticket cases before Justice of the Peace and Municipal Courts

El Paso County Public Defender
915-546-8185 (Main Office)
www.co.el-paso.tx.us/pdefender
Represents indigent individuals charged with juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony offenses from pretrial up to and including appeal; also assists in capital and child support

Travis County Juvenile Public Defender
512-854-4128 (Main Office)
www.co.travis.tx.us/juvenile_public_defender
Represents juveniles who have been accused and asked to appear in juvenile court

SPECIALTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

Bexar County Appellate Public Defender
210-335-0701 (Main Office)
www.co.bexar.tx.us/apd
Appellate cases for indigent defense through court appointment only (includes Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Brooks, Dimmit, Duval, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, La Salle, Mason, Maverick, McMullen (also trial PD), Medina, Menard, Real, Starr, Sutton, Uvalde, Val Verde (also trial PD), Webb (also trial PD), Wilson, Zapata, Zavala counties)

Fort Bend County Mental Health Public Defender
281-238-3050 (Main Office)
www.co.fort-bend.tx.us
Represents defendants with mental illnesses; cases with both felonies and misdemeanors involving mental health

Harris County Public Defender
713-368-0016 (Main Office)
harriscountypublicdefender.org
Indigent criminal defense in the following: felony appellate, misdemeanor appellate, and misdemeanor mental health

Lubbock Private Defenders' Office
806-749-0007 (Main Office)
Appoints specially trained private defenders to represent indigent citizens with serious mental illnesses or conditions charged with the commission of misdemeanor and felony offenses in Lubbock County; assigns case workers to provide case management after incarceration in order to help reduce the cycle of recidivism

Montgomery County Managed Assigned Counsel Program
936-538-8131 (Main Office)
mctx.org
Managed assigned counsel program representing indigent citizens of Montgomery County in felony mental health and misdemeanor mental health offenses through court appointment

Regional Public Defender For Capital Cases

806-775-5650 (Main Office)

Indigent criminal defense (includes Andrews, Armstrong, Bailey, Baylor, Borden, Briscoe, Brown, Carson, Castro, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Collingsworth, Concho, Cottle, Crane, Crosby, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Ector, Fisher, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Glasscock, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hardeman, Hartley, Hemphill, Hockley, Howard, Irion, Kent, King, Knox, Lamb, Lipscomb, Loving, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, McCulloch, Menard [see also appellate PD], Midland, Mills, Moore, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Reeves, Roberts, Runnels, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Sherman, Sterling, Stonewall, Swisher, Taylor, Terry, Tom Green, Ward, Wheeler, Winkler, Yoakum counties)

Travis County Mental Health Public Defender

512-854-3030 (Main Office)

www.courts.state.tx.us/tidc

Misdemeanor criminal defense for those with mental health issues and defense with social services

PUBLIC DEFENDER

See: www.oca.courts.state.tx.us/tfid/pdoffices.asp for a listing of public defender offices.

Bee County Regional Public Defender RioGrande Legal Aid

361-358-1925 (Main Office)

www.trla.org/office/bee-county-regional-public-defender

Indigent criminal defense (includes Live Oak and McMullen Counties)

Bowle County Public Defender

903-792-2012 (Main Office)

Indigent criminal defense (includes Red River County)

Burnet County Public Defender Office

512-234-3061 (Main Office)

Indigent criminal defense in felony, juvenile and misdemeanor offenses

Caprock Regional Public Defender Office

806-742-2570 (Main Office)

www.law.ttu.edu/acp/programs/clinical/crpd

Indigent criminal defense in misdemeanors, felonies, and juvenile cases appointed by judge (includes Armstrong, Briscoe, Collingsworth, Cottle, Dawson, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hardeman, Kent, King, Knox, Motley, Stonewall, and Swisher counties)

Colorado County Public Defender

979-732-9425 (Main Office)

www.co.colorado.tx.us/ips/cms

Indigent criminal defense

Dallas County Public Defender

214-653-3550 (Main Office)

www.dallascounty.org/departments/pubdefender

Indigent criminal defense for capital, felony, misdemeanor and juvenile offenses

El Paso County Public Defender

915-546-8185 (Main Office)

www.co.el-paso.tx.us/pdefender

Represents indigent individuals charged with juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony offenses from pretrial up to and including appeal; also assists in capital and child support

Hidalgo County Public Defender

956-292-7040 (Main Office)

www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/index.asp?nid=196

Represents indigent individuals charged with misdemeanor offenses from arraignment up to and including appeal; felony, misdemeanor, juvenile

Kaufman County Public Defender

972-932-0230 (Main Office)

www.kaufmancounty.net/pd.html

Indigent criminal defense; felony, misdemeanor

Webb County Public Defender

956-523-4101 (Main Office)

www.webbcountytx.gov/PublicDefender

Ensures legal representation to indigent defendants charged with adult misdemeanor and felony crimes; juvenile criminal defense unit

Wichita County Public Defender

940-766-8199 (Main Office)

www.co.wichita.tx.us/pub_def.htm

Indigent criminal defense

Willacy County Public Defender Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

956-364-3800 (Main Office)

www.trla.org/office/willacy-county-public-defender

Indigent criminal defense

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

Federal public defenders offer effective counsel to indigent federal defendants who cannot afford to retain their own representation.

Federal Public Defender, Eastern District

Beaumont: 409-839-2608

Frisco: 469-362-8506

Sherman: 903-892-4448

Tyler: 903-531-9233

txe.fd.org

Federal Public Defender, Northern District
Amarillo: 806-324-2370
Lubbock: 806-472-7236
Fort Worth: 817-978-2753
Dallas: 214-767-2746
txn.fd.org

Federal Public Defender, Southern District
Brownsville: 956-548-2573
Corpus Christi: 361-888-3532
Laredo: 956-753-5313
McAllen: 956-630-2995
Houston: 713-718-4600
www.fpdspot.org

Federal Public Defender, Western District
Alpine: 432-837-5598
Austin: 512-916-5025
Del Rio: 830-703-2040
El Paso: 915-534-6525
San Antonio: 210-472-6700
txw.fd.org

STATEWIDE LEGAL RESOURCES RELATING TO CRIMINAL MATTERS

If a public defender is not listed under your county and the court does not appoint an attorney on your behalf, a list of all the lawyer referral services in Texas can be found under the "Other Resources" tab. Please indicate that you are searching for a criminal defense attorney. Alternative resources are listed below.

Texas Fair Defense Project
512-637-5220 (Intake Line)
www.texasfairdefenseproject.org
Accepts complaints from defendants who need help to request a court-appointed lawyer, feel that their request for a court-appointed lawyer was wrongly denied, or who feel that they did not receive adequate representation from their court-appointed lawyer

NON-CAPITAL CRIMINAL MATTERS (MISDEMEANORS OR FELONIES)

Criminal Defense Clinic, UT School Of Law
512-232-1300 (Main Office)
www.utexas.edu/law/clinics/criminal
Represents select misdemeanor cases in Travis County

Criminal Justice Clinic, SMU Dedman School Of Law
214-768-2562 (Main Office)
www.law.smu.edu
Provides legal assistance to Dallas County citizens charged with offenses (such as classes A and B misdemeanors) and face the possibility of imprisonment

Texas Tech University School Of Law
806-742-4312 (Main Office)
www.law.ttu.edu/acp/programs/clinical
Provide students the opportunity to represent clients (including low-income) and participate in real cases through the clinical courses

CAPITAL CRIMINAL MATTERS (INVOLVING THE DEATH PENALTY)

Capital Murder – Request For Appointed Counsel
512-463-1551 (Main Office)
www.cca.courts.state.tx.us
The defendant should file a motion (or write a letter) to the district court that convicted him/her requesting an appointed attorney on appeal and habeas corpus. If there is no response after a reasonable period of time contact:

Court of Criminal Appeals – Attn: Presiding Judge
Supreme Court Building
P.O. Box 12308
Austin, TX 78711

Capital Punishment Clinic, UT School Of Law
512-232-6325 (Main Office)
www.utexas.edu/law/academics/clinics/capital
Provides representation, on a limited basis, to indigent defendants charged with or convicted of capital offenses on death penalty cases at the trial, appellate, and post-conviction stages of litigation

INNOCENCE CLAIMS

Innocence Project Of Texas
806-744-6525 (Main Office)
www.ipoftexas.org
1511 Texas Avenue, Lubbock, TX, 79401
Investigates claims of actual innocence where an individual has been convicted of a crime in Texas and has exhausted all of his or her direct appeals. Does not provide litigation assistance during trial, appeal, or parole proceedings. All case requests must be sent by mail. Please include in the letter a description of the crime, the claimant's contact information (including TDCJ# if they are incarcerated), and a description of any evidence that could help to prove innocence.

Texas Center For Actual Innocence
512-471-1317 (Main Office)
www.utexas.edu/law/clinics/innocence
The University Of Texas School Of Law
727 E. Dean Keeton Street, Austin, TX, 78705
A non-profit, tax-exempt corporation that screens and investigates claims from inmates that they are actually innocent of the offense for which they were convicted and are serving a prison sentence

Texas Innocence Network

713-743-8592 (Main Office)

www.law.uh.edu/cji/homepage.asp

100 Law Center, Houston, TX, 77204-6060

Considers cases involving incarcerated inmates with persuasive claims of actual innocence, who have reached the end of the appellate process. Only takes cases in which a guilty plea, no contest plea, or plea bargain was entered on a limited basis only. All case requests must be sent by mail. Please include the inmate's name, number, address, crime convicted of, and reason(s) they are innocent of the crime.

Thurgood Marshall School Of Law Innocence Project

713-313-1139 (Main Office)

www.earlcarlinstitute.org/Centers/Criminal_Justice.shtml

Earl Carl Institute For Legal &, Social Policy, Inc.

Houston, TX, 77004

Investigates claims of actual innocence where an individual has been convicted of a crime in Texas. The convicted individual must have exhausted all direct appeals.

**LEGAL RESOURCES FOR INMATES
IN PRISON**

Most federally funded legal aid programs are prohibited from assisting inmates with criminal legal matters. All Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) inmates must use the TDCJ system for filing complaints

**State Counsel for Offenders Division, Texas
Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)**

936-437-5203

www.tdcj.state.tx.us/stcounsel/stcnsloff-home.htm

The State Counsel for Offenders provides attorneys who are independent of the confinement divisions of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to help inmates with legal problems. If the offender has been served with legal papers, the offender should immediately send the legal papers with an I-60 with their name and TDCJ ID# printed on the request, by truck mail to:

Texas Department of Criminal Justice

State Counsel for Offenders – Attention [name of section]

P.O. Box 4005

Huntsville, TX 77342-4005

The State Counsel for Offenders has five sections:

State Counsel For Offenders – Appellate Services

936-437-5221 (Main Office)

www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/scfo/sco_appellate.html

Assists indigent offenders who need legal services with appeals and writs

State Counsel For Offenders – Civil**Commitment Services**

936-521-6700 (Main Office)

www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/scfo/sco_civil_commitment.html

Represents indigent persons subject to a court proceeding under the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) civil commitment statute; cannot help offenders with civil rights issues

**State Counsel For Offenders – General Legal
And Immigration Services**

936-437-5203 (Main Office)

www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/scfo/sco_immigration.html

Assists indigent offenders with appearances in Immigration Court or with any questions concerning immigration

State Counsel For Offenders – Legal Assistance

936-437-5235 (Main Office)

www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/scfo/sco_legal.html

Assists indigent offenders with some of their legal problems and questions including petitions for discretionary review, pending charges and detainers, administrative proceedings & other legal issues; nunc pro tunc

State Counsel For Offenders – Trial Services

936-437-5246 (Main Office)

www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/scfo/sco_trial.html

Represent indigent offenders indicted for felonies allegedly committed while incarcerated within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)

Texas Civil Rights Project

512-474-5073 (Main Office)

www.texascivilrightsproject.org

Advocates for racial, social, and economic equality in Texas through education and litigation programs, bringing lawsuits related to prison conditions; provides VAWA for immigrant victims of domestic violence and U-visa legal representation

Texas CURE

972-276-9865 (Main Office)

Non-profit organization that organizes prisoners, their families, and other concerned citizens to achieve reforms in the Texas criminal justice system; provides referrals and information, but no legal assistance

PRISON GRIEVANCES

An Ombudsman is an independent and impartial investigator for the public's complaints about the administration of government.

Access To Courts

936-437-4816 (Main Office)
www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/arm/index.html
1060 Hwy 190 E, Huntsville, TX, 77340
Administers law libraries in the prison units that, at a minimum, contains self-help publications, pertinent case law, codes, rules, and fill-in-the-blank legal forms

Office Of The Inspector General-Texas Department Of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)

512-671-2480 (Main Office)
oig.tdcj.texas.gov/index.html
P.O. Box 13084 - Capitol Station, Austin, TX, 78711
Investigates allegations of excessive/unnecessary use of force and harassment and retaliation of inmates for use of the legal system; investigate all criminal activities involving offenders and employees in the offices of the TDCJ; investigate fraud and any misappropriation of funds by state employees of TDCJ

TDCJ Correctional Institutions Division Ombudsman Office

936-437-4927 (Main Office)
www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/cid/index.html
P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342
Handles issues from the public relating to secure facilities (prison units, state jails, and substance abuse felony punishment facilities), and any specific concerns regarding offenders confined in these types of facilities

TDCJ Ombudsman Coordinator

936-437-4927 (Main Office)
www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/arm/index.html
P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX, 77342-0099
Provides a single point of contact for elected officials and members of the general public who have inquiries regarding the agency, offenders or staff; also acts as a liaison between TDCJ and the general public; responds to informational inquiries regarding agency policies, procedures, or actions or to questions concerning a specific offender; facilitates problem resolution

TDCJ Parole Division Ombudsman

512-406-5795 (Main Office)
www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/arm/index.html
P.O. Box 13401 Capital Station, Austin, TX, 78711
Handles issues from the public relating to parole supervision; responds to concerns from offenders on parole or mandatory supervision

JAIL GRIEVANCES

Texas Commission On Jail Standards

512-463-5505 (Main Office)
www.tcjs.state.tx.us
Inspector – Inmate Complaints
P.O. Box 12985, Austin, TX, 78711-2985
Handles complaints of concern involving inmates in county jails or private correctional facilities that house county and/or out-of-state inmates (excludes the Texas Department of Criminal Justice facilities, city jails, juvenile facilities, and other privately operated facilities); inmates must use internal grievance process prior to submitting their complaint to the office; issues that are criminal in nature should be submitted to a law enforcement agency

Texas Jail Project

512-597-8746 (Main Office)
www.texasjailproject.org
1712 E. Riverside Drive, Box 190, Austin, TX, 78741
Non-profit organization that works to improve conditions for incarcerated women and men in Texas county jails; helps inmates address problems within those jails

INFORMATION FOR RELATIVES OF INMATES

Texas Inmate Families Association (TIFA)

512-371-0900 (Main Office)
www.tifa.org
P.O. Box 300220, Austin, TX, 78703-0004
Non-profit organization for families of inmates that advocate on behalf of their members to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Texas Legislature.

LEGAL RESOURCES FOR MEXICAN NATIONALS

Mexican Consulates may provide some assistance to Mexican Nationals – ask for the department of protection and legal affairs.

Consulate General Of Mexico

Austin: 512-478-2866
Brownsville: 956-542-4431
Dallas: 214-932-8670
Del Rio: 830-775-2352
Eagle Pass: 830-773-9255
El Paso: 915-532-5540
Houston: 713-271-6800
Laredo: 956-723-0990
McAllen: 956-686-0243
Presidio: 423-229-2788
San Antonio: 210-227-9145
www.mexonline.com/consulate.htm

