

Resource & Referral Guide

Please take notice that the following referral phone numbers are listed only as a resource for your benefit, and Houston Volunteer Lawyers does not guarantee the assistance or acceptance by any of the listed organizations.

General Legal

Houston Volunteer Lawyers

Representation or legal advice in family and general civil matters: divorce, custody, name change, guardianship, consumer, homeownership, landlord/tenant, bankruptcy, IRS tax, estate planning. Not criminal, traffic or fee-generating matters.

www.makejusticehappen.org (713) 228-0735

Lone Star Legal Aid

Representation in domestic violence, child advocacy, homeowner protection, tenants' rights and public housing, income maintenance and public benefits, health care access, consumer fraud, disabilities rights, employment, education, civil rights, and disaster relief.

www.lonestarlegal.org (713) 652-0077

University of Houston Clinical Programs

Civil, family, probate, immigration, transactional, and consumer. By appointment only.

(713) 743-2094

South Texas College of Law Civil Clinics

Divorces (with or without kids, no property); probate, estate planning, guardianships, veteran issues, mediation. Limited number of cases accepted.

(713) 646-2990

TSU's Thurgood Marshall School of Law – Legal Clinics

Immigration, misdemeanors (Harris county only), mediation/ADR, simple wills, probate, guardianships (incapacitated adults). Cases only accepted fall and spring semesters.

(713) 313-7275

Dispute Resolution Center (Harris County)

Mediation services in civil matters, family law matters, or community disputes for a nominal fee.

www.co.harris.tx.us/drc/ (713) 274-7100

Dispute Resolution Center For Central Brazos Valley (Grimes County)

Mediation services in family law matters or community disputes for a nominal fee.

www.bvdrc.org (979) 822-6947

Houston Lawyer Referral Service

For-fee referrals to specialists with \$20 for the first 30 minutes.

www.hlrs.org (713) 237-9429

HBA LegalLine

Free phone advice on 1st & 3rd Wednesday each month, 5-9 pm.

(713) 759-1133

Consejos Legales

Spanish-version of LegalLine, 1st Thursday each month, 6-8 pm.

(713) 759-1133

Legal Hotline for Older Texans

For 60+ Texans, answer legal questions free, referrals.

(800) 622-2520

TexasLawHelp.org

Civil legal information; Pro se assistance.

www.texaslawhelp.org

Beacon Law, formerly Cathedral Justice Project

Public benefits, housing, employment, disability, wills, consumer law and municipal code violations; Homeless or transitional housing.

www.beaconlaw.org (713) 220-9780

Family Law

Attorney General's Office (Houston)

Child support, paternity establishment.

www.oag.state.tx.us (713) 974-4876

Domestic Relations Office (Harris County)

Enforcement of child support, visitation, and paternity establishment. Provides mediation services.

www.dro.hctx.net (713) 755-6757

Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC)

Divorces, protective orders, modifications, enforcement, sexual assault; limited services for non-domestic violence.

www.hawc.org (713) 528-6798

Children/Minors

Family Helpline for Strong Families and Safe Children

A phone resource for people with legal questions about Texas Child Protective Services (CPS). Helpline is available 9-5, M-F.

(844) 888-6565

Jane's Due Process, Inc.

Legal representation for pregnant minors.

www.janesdueprocess.org (866) 999-5263

Justice for Children

Intervenes on behalf of abused children.

www.justiceforchildren.org (713) 225-4357

Access and Visitation Hotline- Legal Line

Monday – Friday, 1 pm to 7pm.

www.txaccess.org (866) 292-4636

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence Shelters and Crisis Numbers, City by City

www.hhsc.state.tx.us/programs/familyviolence/shelters.html

Texas Abuse Hotline

24-hour hotline for abuse & neglect of children and elderly.

(800) 252-5400

www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp

Texas Advocacy Project

Free legal services to victims of domestic violence, sex. assault & stalking.

Family Violence Legal Hotline: (800) 374-4673

Family Law Hotline: (800) 777-3247

Sexual Assault Legal Hotline: (800) 296-7233

www.texasadvocacyproject.org (512) 476-5377

National Domestic Violence Hotline

www.thehotline.org (800) 799-7233

Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services

www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/vs/index.html (800) 848-4284

The Victim Assistance Centre, Inc.

Legal advocacy including protective orders, crime victim compensation applications; supervised group visitations and monitored visitations.

www.victimassistancecentre.com (713) 755-5625

Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA)

Counseling & legal representation

www.avda-tx.org (713) 224-9911

District Attorney's Office Family Criminal Law Division

Parental kidnapping, family violence, protective orders, criminal non-support.

(713) 755-5888

Houston Police Department's Family Violence Unit

(713) 308-1100

Harris County Sheriff's Domestic Violence Unit

(713) 967-5743

Children's Protective Services (CPS)

www.hc-ps.org (713) 394-4000

Disability-related Issues

Disability Rights Texas

Access and discrimination issues.

www.disabilityrightstx.org (713) 974-7691

800-880-0821 (Houston)

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The Arc of Greater Houston	
Programs and services for persons with mental retardation.	
www.aogh.org	(713) 957-1600
Mental Health/Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County	
	(713) 970-4444
Aids Foundation Houston	
HIV Related (including housing and rental assistance).	
www.aidshelp.org	(713) 623-6796
Thomas Street Health Center	
HIV/AIDS clinic	
	(713) 873-4000
Texas Medicaid Helpline	
	(800) 252-8263

Elder Law

Abuse & Neglect, Texas Department Of Family And Protective Services (TDFPS)	
Hotline to report abuse, neglect or exploitation of children, elderly, and adults with disabilities.	
www.dfps.state.tx.us/	(800) 252-5400
Advocate Legal Senior Center	
Provides legal services on a pro bono and sliding scale basis to senior citizens residing in and around Harris County.	
www.senioradvocatetx.org	(832) 393-4074
Facility Victim Program Legal Line	
Legal assistance to victims of abuse, neglect or exploitation of residents of nursing home, assisted living or home nursing.	
www.tlsc.org/programs/facilityvictims.asp	(800) 622-2520
South Central Pension Rights Project	
Assists with public and private pension benefit claims.	
www.southcentralpension.org	(800) 443-2528
Texas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents	
www.tanhr.net	(972) 572-6330
Texas Department on Aging and Disability Services	
www.dads.state.tx.us	(800) 252-9240 (512) 438-3011

Immigration

Immigrant Rights Hotline	
Call for assistance understanding current immigration law and referrals to legal services organizations. 9-5, M-F.	
www.houstonimmigration.org	(833) 468-4664
Cabrini Center, Catholic Charities	
Wide range including family-based visa petitions, citizenship applications, asylum proceedings, adjustment of status for refugees, asylees and Cubans, legal assistance to immigrant crime victims (VAWA and "U" & "T" Visas) and representation of unaccompanied minors.	
www.catholiccharities.org/cabrini	(713) 874-6570
YMCA International Services	
Immigration matters only- VAWA applications and family violence issue, asylum, trafficking, immigration court	
www.ymcahouston.org/ymca-international/	(713) 339-9015
GANO/CARECEN Central American Refugee Center	
Status, naturalization, family petitions, temp. protected status	
	(713) 665-1284
Boat People SOS, Inc.	
Vietnamese - immigration, family law, landlord tenant and wills.	
www.bpsos.org	(281) 530-6888
Kids In Need Of Defense (KIND)	
Provides high-quality pro bono legal immigration services for unaccompanied children released to the Houston area	
www.supportkind.org	(832) 779-4030

Tahirih Justice Center	
Immigration and family law; holistic social and medical referrals	
www.tahirih.org	(713) 496-0100
Neighborhood Centers Immigration and Citizenship	
Free monthly forums to assist with Naturalization applications and other immigration issues.	
www.neighborhood-centers.org	(713) 667-9400
Human Rights First – Refugee Representation	
Assists asylum seekers	
www.humanrightsfirst.org	(713) 955-1360
American Immigration Lawyers Association	
www.aila.org	(202) 507-7600

IRS Issues

Houston Volunteer Lawyers Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic	
www.makejusticehappen.org	(713) 228-0732
Baker-Ripley Tax Center	
Free tax return preparation	
www.neighborhood-centers.org/locations/baker-ripley-tax-center	(713) 273-3755
Taxpayer Advocate Service	
www.irs.gov/advocate	(713) 209-3660

Consumer Issues

Better Business Bureau	
www.houston.bbb.org	(713) 868-9500
Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline	
Consumer complaints against individual or business	
www.oag.state.tx.us/consumer/complain.shtml	(800) 621-0508
Consumer Fraud Section Harris County DA	
	(713) 274-5555
Consumer Credit Counseling Service	
www.cccs.net	(800) 249-2227
Advocates for Victims of Crime (AVOICE)	
Victim toolkits for ID Theft victims	
www.idvictim.org	(888) 343-4414
The People's Lawyer	
Information regarding consumer, tenants' rights, small claims	
www.peopleslawyer.net	
NACA (National Association of Consumer Advocates)	
www.consumeradvocates.org	(202) 492-1989

Landlord/Tenant/Homeownership

Lone Star Legal Aid	
www.lonestarlegal.org	(713) 652-0077
Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc.	
Estate documents, property title documents and non-profit incorporation for low income Texans.	
www.earlcarlinstitute.org	(713) 313-1139
Coalition for the Homeless	
www.coalitionforthehomeless.org	(713) 739-7514
Houston Area Urban League	
Foreclosure issues	
www.haul.org	(713) 393-8700
City of Houston 3-1-1	
Report dangerous conditions (e.g. raw sewage), code violations.	
Dial 3-1-1	
Texas Low-Income Housing Information Service	
www.texashousing.org	
Texas Tenants Union	
Information and assistance to tenants with rental issues	
www.txtenants.org	(214) 823-2733
Public Utility Commission Hotline	
www.puc.state.tx.us	(888) 782-8477

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LGBT Issues

Lambda Legal Help Desk

Legal information/resources for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community and those affected by HIV

<http://www.lambdalegal.org> (214) 219-8585

Other Resources

United Way Helpline

Provides referrals to agencies and social services; emergency aid, continuing education, medical resources, shelters

(713) 957-HELP (800) 833-5948

Harris Co. Social Services

Assistance with payment of rent, utility, phone bills

(713) 696-7900

Texas Dept. of Human Services

Help with food, shelter

(713) 767-2000

Interfaith Ministries

Rent & utility assistance, Meals on Wheels

www.imggh.org (713) 533-4900

AARP (American Association of Retired Persons)

www.aarp.org (888) 687-2277

Fort Bend Lawyers Care

www.fortbendlawyerscare.org (281) 239-0015 Texas

Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts

Free legal and accounting services to art nonprofits and artists.

www.talarts.org (800) 526-8252

Jefferson County Bar Association

(409) 719-5999

www.jcba.org (409) 835-8438

CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)

www.chipmedicaid.org (800) 647-6558

Veterans

Operation Enduring Lamp

Legal referrals and advice to active duty armed forces

www.texasbar.com/lamp (800) 204-2222 ext. 1857

Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans Hotline

www.texasbar.com/veterans (800) 622-2520

Texas Veterans Commission Hotline

Disability claims representation, and counseling assistance, employment services and education benefits.

www.tvc.state.tx.us (800) 252-8387

Veterans Legal Assistance Project

www.tlsc.org (800) 622-2520

Veterans Legal Initiative

www.MakeJusticeHappen.org (713) 333-8387

Amvets: American Veterans

www.amvets.org (877) 726-8387

Disabled American Veterans

www.dav.org (713) 383-2715

Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program

Pro bono representation before Ct. of Veterans Appeals in DC

www.vetsprobono.net (888) 838-7727

Career and Recovery Research

2525 San Jacinto St., Houston, 77002

www.careerandrecovery.org (713) 754-7000

Benefit Issues

2-1-1 Texas

www.211texas.org/211 Dial 2-1-1

Social Security Administration

www.ssa.gov (800) 772-1213

Texas Dept. of State Health Services General Inquiry Hotline

www.dshs.state.tx.us (888) 963-7111

Texas Health and Human Services Commission

www.hhsc.state.tx.us (512) 424-6500

Employment/Wage Issues

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Wage disputes involving discrimination issues

www.eeoc.gov (800) 669-4000

Texas Workforce Commission

www.twc.state.tx.us (800) 832-2829

State Board of Labor

Salary complaints & disputes

(800) 832-9243

Workers Compensation Division, Tx Department of Insurance

www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/index.html (512) 463-6169

Equal Justice Center

Wage and employment rights

www.equaljusticecenter.org (512) 474-0007

Fe Y Justicia Worker Center

Workers rights

www.houstonworkers.org (713) 862-8222

Civil Rights Violations

American Civil Liberties Union

www.aclutx.org (713) 942-8146

Civil Rights Division, Texas Workforce Commission

Employment and Housing discrimination

www.twc.state.tx.us (512) 463-2642

Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF)

Education, employment, immigration rights, and political access.

www.maldef.org/index.html (210) 224-5476

Texas Civil Rights Project-- Houston

Civil Rights, Employment, Prison/Jail, VAWA immigration.

www.texascivilrightsproject.org (832) 767-3650

Texas Workforce Commission

Enforces civil rights & discrimination laws (housing/employment).

<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/partners/civil-rights-discrimination> (888) 452-4778

Criminal Matters

Harris County Criminal Lawyers

www.hccla.org (713) 227-5800

District Attorney's Office

(713) 274-7114

Harris County Public Defender

Felony and misdemeanor appellate; misdemeanor mental health

harriscountypublicdefender.org (713) 638-0016

Law Enforcement

Harris Co. Sheriff's Office Dispatch

(713) 221-6000

Harris Co. Constable's Office Dispatch

(281) 376-3472

Health Law

Legal Line – Health Law Project

www.tlsc.org (866) 979-4343

Professional Grievances

Attorney Grievance Information

www.texasbar.com/caap (800) 932-1900

Health Professions Council's Complaint Referral System

www.hpc.state.tx.us (800) 821-3205

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Shelters

Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC)

Information, crisis intervention and group counseling

www.hawc.org (713) 528-2121

Star of Hope Mission

Emergency shelter

www.sohmission.org (713) 748-0700

Bay Area Turning Point

Protective orders and referrals

www.bayareaturningpoint.org (281) 338-7600

Bridge Over Troubled Waters

Protective orders and referrals

www.thebridgeovertroubledwaters.org (713) 473-2801

Women's Resource and Crisis Center (Galveston)

Protective orders and referrals

www.rccgc.org (409) 763-1441

Twin City Mission (Brazos Co.)

Protective orders and referrals

www.twincitymission.org (979) 822-7511

Women's Center of Brazoria County

Protective orders and referrals

www.womenscenterbc.com (281) 585-0902

Family Time Crisis and Counseling Center

Family violence shelter in Humble, protective orders, human trafficking, sexual assault

www.familytimeccc.org (281) 446-2615

Family Violence Center – Northwest Assistance Ministries

Legal advocacy including protective orders, domestic violence, sexual assault

www.namonline.org (888) 750-4673

(281) 583-5600

Family Crisis Center of East Texas (San Jacinto)

Protective orders and referrals

www.familycrisiscenterofeasttexas.com (936) 639-1681

SAAFE House (San Jacinto, Walker)

Protective orders and referrals

www.saafehouse.org (936) 291-3369

Fort Bend County Women's Center, Inc.

Assists domestic violence victims

www.fortbendwomenscenter.org (281) 344-5750

Montgomery County Women's Center

Assists victims of family violence, stalking, sexual assault on family law issues

www.mcwctx.org (936) 441-4044

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