

Serving Court Documents Research Guide

Overview

This research guide includes information and forms on serving court documents to other parties involved in a court case in Texas. Some international service information is also included. This research guide is not exhaustive and may not have the most up-to-date information. It is for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or act as the substitute for legal counsel.

Statutes & Codes

Texas Statutes Online www.statutes.capitol.texas.gov

Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code

- Ch. 17 – Parties; Citation; Long-Arm Jurisdiction
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CP/htm/CP.17.htm>

Texas Rules of Civil Procedure

- Rule 99 – Issuance and Form of Citation
<https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1452743/trcp-combined-effective-september-1-2021.pdf#page=72>

Secondary Resources in Print

Dorsaneo’s Texas Litigation Guide KFT 1730.T4

- Vol. 2, Ch. 31 Service on Residents
- Vol. 2, Ch. 32 Personal Jurisdiction and Service on Nonresidents

Texas Family Law Practice Manual KFT 1294.T4S7

- Vol. 1, Ch. 8 Ancillary Motions and Proceedings

O’Connor’s Texas Civil Forms KFT 1735.A6503

- Ch. 1 General Trial Forms – Certificate of Service
- Ch. 2 Plaintiff’s Lawsuit – Service on the Defendant

CLE Materials

Collections and Creditors Rights KFT 1367.C6C645

- 2022 Ch. 15 Service of Process and Default Judgments: Articles and Forms 2022

Online Resources

Service of Process (Texas Secretary of State)
<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/service-of-process.shtml>

Guidelines for Service of Process (Texas Department of Insurance)
<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/consumer/attyforservice.html>

How to Serve the Initial papers in a Family Law Case (TexasLawHelp)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/how-serve-initial-court-papers-family-law>

Civil Process Field Guide Deskbook - Deskbooks (TJCTC) <https://www.tjctc.org/tjctc-resources/Deskbooks.html>

Service and Issuance of Citation When the Other Side is Incarcerated (TexasLawHelp)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/service-and-issuance-of-citation-when-the-other-side-is-incarcerated>

Service by Posting (TexasLawHelp)

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/service-posting-when-you-cant-find-your-spouse-divorce-without-kids>.

Service by Publication (TexasLawHelp)

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/service-publication-when-you-cant-find-other-parent>

Service of Process in Texas Now Permitted Through Social Media and Email (*Justia* Legal News)

<https://news.justia.com/service-of-process-in-texas-now-permitted-through-social-media-and-email/>

U.S. Immigrations and Custom Enforcement Online Detainee Locator System

<https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/index>

Federal Bureau of Prisons Inmate Finder

<https://www.bop.gov/inmateloc/>

Germany: Court Holds Service of Foreign Divorce Papers Cannot Be Effected Via WhatsApp

<https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2021-12-28/germany-court-holds-service-of-foreign-divorce-papers-cannot-be-effected-via-whatsapp/>

Legal Assistance

Legal Lines – Ask Attorneys simple legal questions (free service)

- Tarrant County LegalLine Sign-up
<https://www.tarrantbar.org/>
- Dallas County LegalLine Sign-up
<https://www.dallasbar.org/index.cfm?pg=legalline>

Tarrant County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service: 817-336-4101 (\$20 for the first 30 minutes)