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.

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.bvdrcc.org (979) 822-6947

Houston Lawyer Referral Service
For-fee referrals to specialists with $20 for the first 30 minutes.

www.hls.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.justinforchildren.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.hhscc.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.thelotline.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 visits 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)
Resource & Referral Guide

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.aidselp.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.senioradvocatelex.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.tls.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
Resource & Referral Guide

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.imgh.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

Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts
Free legal and accounting services to art nonprofits and artists.
www.tlaarts.org (800) 526-8252

Jefferson County Bar Association
www.jcba.org (409) 719-5999

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.tllsc.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 Juicicia 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.texascivilrightsp project.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.hccola.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.tllsc.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
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.safethouse.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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