This information is furnished to you to provide basic information relative to the law governing procedures for cases in the Coleman County Courts.

The Coleman County Clerks of the Coleman County Courts are not allowed to give legal advice. You are urged to review the applicable laws and to consult an attorney of your choice for further information or answers to specific legal questions.

Disclaimer: The law is constantly changing and there may be times when the information on or web site or this print-out may not be current. This information is provided for general informational purposes only and is not intended as legal advice. This information is not a comprehensive treatment of the subject and is not a substitute for advice from an attorney.

Self Help Legal Resources:

Legal Assistance Organizations & Other Non-Profit Organizations

Legal aid organizations provide free legal help in civil cases for persons and families with low income. To get help from these organizations, you must go through an application process. The 3 largest, full-service legal aid organizations in Texas are:

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas https://legalaidtx.org/

Program Phone: (817) 649-4740 Legal Assistance: (800) 955-3959

<u>Lone Star Legal Aid</u> - https://www.lonestarlegal.org/

Program Phone: (713) 652-0077 Legal Assistance: (800) 354-1889

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc. https://www.trla.org/

Program Phone: (956) 447-4800 Legal Assistance: (888) 988-9996

Other legal aid organizations: https://texaslawhelp.org/directory

<u>Legal clinics</u> are another way for low-income people with civil legal problems to get free legal advice and help from local lawyers who volunteer their time. https://texaslawhelp.org/legal-events-and-clinics

Texas Law Help

The <u>Texas Law Help</u> website is a resource for people who do not have a lawyer. They have information on many topics, including: see links below

Eviction and other landlord issues

Foreclosure Name changes

Divorce

Child custody and visitation

Child support Criminal records

Occupational driver's license

Court fines and traffic tickets

Health and benefits

Debt collection and payday loans

Small estates

Transfer on death deeds

Veterans and military issues

Disability rights

Immigration rights

Texas Law Help also has a Live Chat service available through its website. With Live Chat, you can type messages to a lawyer or law student who can give you information about the law and point you in the right direction. Live Chat is free.

https://texaslawhelp.org/

https://texaslawhelp.org/wills-estate-planning

https://texaslawhelp.org/toolkit/i-want-use-small-estate-affidavit-probate-estate-0

https://texaslawhelp.org/toolkit/i-want-pass-my-house-or-land-without-will

How to legally change the name of a child under 18. For parents and guardians

https://texaslawhelp.org/guide/i-want-to-change-my-childs-name

https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/forms/

Help Filling Out Forms

If you do not have a lawyer, you may be able to get free help filling out forms:

Use Texas Law Help's Live Help chat service to talk to a lawyer or law student.

A few counties have <u>self-help centers</u> where you may be able to get help in filling out forms in family law cases. https://texaslawhelp.org/directory

Free <u>legal advice clinics</u> are another option where you may be able to get help filling out forms. These clinics are usually put on by local attorney groups. <u>https://texaslawhelp.org/legal-events-and-clinics</u>

Texas Forms

<u>TexasLawHelp</u> has free forms. TexasLawHelp.org has free forms for many kinds of simple cases. There are 2 ways to get forms from TexasLawHelp. https://texaslawhelp.org/

First, TexasLawHelp has forms that a computer program will fill out for you. The website will ask you questions and fill out the forms with your answers. At the end, you can print out the completed form. Second, TexasLawHelp has blank forms that you can print off the website and fill in yourself. It is important for you to understand, though, that **not all courts in Texas accept the online or fill-**

in-the-blank forms from TexasLawHelp.org. Call the clerk's office to find out whether the courts in your area will accept forms from TexasLawHelp.org.

E-filing. The <u>eFile Texas Self Help</u> website: https://selfhelp.efiletexas.gov/SRL has free forms for several kinds of cases. Persons who represent themselves may choose to file their documents electronically (hence "e-filing") through eFile Texas instead of taking or sending their documents to the clerk's office. The eFile Texas Self Help website will help you electronically fill out the form you want to file and submit it to the clerk of the court where you want it filed. E-filing requires that you select a service provider (an EFSP—Electronic Filing Service Provider), who will help you file your documents electronically. There are several EFSPs that offer free filing. **You are not required to use e-filing, but you may use it.**

Libraries may have forms. If your county has a law library or a public library, you may find forms there. You can also check with the State Law Library, www.sll.texas.gov,

Courts. Some courts have forms available online or in the clerk's office or county law library. Check on your court's or county's website. The Supreme Court of Texas has approved forms for two kinds of cases:

Getting a <u>protective order</u>, <u>https://www.txcourts.gov/publications-training/training-materials/domestic-violence-information/ and</u>

<u>Uncontested divorces</u> that do not involve children or real property. https://texaslawhelp.org/guide/i-need-a-divorce-we-do-not-have-minor-children

There are also forms for obtaining an <u>order of nondisclosure</u>. <u>https://www.txcourts.gov/rulesforms/forms/</u>