

Enforcement/Contempt (Family Law) Research Guide

Overview

The Law Library frequently gets questions about patrons wanting to enforce a court order or hold someone in contempt in family law cases. This research guide includes information and resources related to family law issues: enforcement of child custody, visitation, and property division. For spousal maintenance or alimony, see its separate research guide. For other civil matters, there is not a research guide. The resources listed below are not exhaustive and may not include 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 Family Code

- §8.059 Enforcement of Maintenance Order <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.8.htm#8.059>
- Ch. 9 Suit to Enforce Decree <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.9.htm#A>
- Ch. 157 Enforcement (SAPCR) <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.157.htm>

Secondary Resources in Print

Texas Family Law Practice Manual REF KFT 1294 .T4S7

- Vol. 3, Ch. 31 Enforcement - Property
- Vol. 3, Ch. 33 Enforcement – Child Support

- Vol. 3, Ch. 34 Enforcement – Possession and Access
- Vol. 3, Ch. 35 Contempt

Texas Family Law: Practice and Procedure REF KFT 1294 .F35

- Objective I: Modifying and Enforcing Spousal Support
- Objective J: Enforcing Child Support Decree
- Objective K: Enforcing Conservatorship Decree
- Objective L: Enforcing Property Division
- Objective M: Handling Interstate Support Enforcement and Modification
- Objective N: Defending Against Enforcement Proceedings

Dorsaneo's Texas Litigation Guide REF KFT 1730 .T4

- Vol. 22, Ch. 364 Post-Dissolution Property Suits
- Vol. 23, Ch. 372 Enforcement of SAPCR Orders

O'Connor's Texas Family Law Handbook REF KFT 1294 .A291 O26

- Ch. 10 Enforcing Child-Support Orders
- Ch. 11 Enforcing Orders of Possession or Access

O'Connor's Texas Family Law Forms REF KFT 1294 A65 W55

- Ch. 16 Enforcing Child-Support Orders
- Ch. 17 Enforcing Orders of Possession or Access
- Ch. 18 Enforcing Property Division

CLE Materials

Advanced Family Law Course KFT 1294 .S83

- 2021 Ch. 9 Enforcement Demonstration – The Right Way to Do It and Mistakes Not to Make
- 2020 Vol. 1, Ch. 6 Enforcement with Contempt

- 2019 Vol. 1, Ch. 2 The Great Divide [Part Three] Property Case Update, Section V – Enforcement, p. 9
- 2019 Ch. 27.1 UCCJEA, UIFSA, and UPA Made Easy – UCCJEA, Section XIV. Enforcement, p. 14-19
- 2019 Ch. 31 Child Support and Possession Enforcement Trial Demonstration Facts
- 2019 Ch. 43 Making Them Pay: Enforcement of Property Divisions
- 2018 Vol. 1, Ch. 3 Supreme Court of Texas Update, Section D – Interference with Child Possession, p. 28
- 2018 Ch. 18 Crossing Borders: Jurisdiction and Enforcement of Judgments and Agreements
- 2018 Ch. 24 Enforcement of Property Division and Spousal Maintenance
- 2017 Ch. 23 Enforcement of the Property Division
- 2017 Ch. 38 Contempt Demonstration
- 2016 Ch. 32 Contempt Enforcement “Trial Demonstration”
- 2016 Ch. 55 Rule11s, ISAs, MSAs, & Enforcement
- 2015 Ch. 28 Child Support Enforcement – It Only Takes One
- 2015 Ch. 37 I Want My Stuff: Property Enforcement (Chapter 9 Remedies)
- 2014 Ch. 15 Premarital and Marital Agreements, Section A:5 Contesting Enforcement, p. 5-15
- 2014 Ch. 44 Contempt Trial Demonstration
- 2013 Ch. 1 “Mine! Mine!” Property Case Law Update, Section V. Enforcement of Property Division, p. 16-22
- 2011 Ch. 36 Beyond Contempt – Enforcing SAPCR Orders

Advanced Family Law Drafting KFT 1294 .A92

- 2013 Ch. 14 Enforcement and Contempt Essentials
- 2008 Ch. 18 Drafting Issues in Enforcement Actions (Includes forms on pages 9-20)
- 2001 Ch. 7 Enforcement

Litigation Update Institute KFT 1738 .A2S7

- 2015 Ch. 5 Contempt of Court

Family Law 101 KFT 1294 .A75 F351

- 2016 Ch. 6 Enforcement of Orders by Contempt – Criminal Trial in the Family Court

Marriage Dissolution Institute KFT 1300 .M372

- 2018 Ch. 14 Have Child, Will Travel: UCCJEA and Enforcement Under the Hague Convention

Online Resources

For information about how to enforce your visitation or possession order, call the Access and Visitation Hotline at 866-292-4636 or go to their website: www.TxAccess.org.

Application for Enforcement of Visitation Rights (Tarrant County DRO Forms)
<https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/en/domestic-relations-office/legal-enforcement/forms.html>

Visitation Journal for Visitation Enforcement (TexasLawHelp.org)
<https://texaslawhelp.org/form/visitation-journal>

Visitation Enforcement: How to Write a Visitation Demand Letter and Keep a Visitation Journal
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/visitation-enforcement-how-to-write-a-visitation-demand-letter-and-keep-a-visitation-journal>

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)