

## Resources

### Texas

#### Runaway Hotline

1-(800) 989-6884

or text:

(512) 872-5777

[texasrunaway.org](http://texasrunaway.org)

#### Austin Child Guidance Center

(512) 451-2242

[austinchildguidance.org](http://austinchildguidance.org)

#### Children's Partnership

(512) 854-5022

[thechildrenspartnershiptx.com](http://thechildrenspartnershiptx.com)

#### LifeWorks

(512) 735-2400

[lifeworksaustin.org](http://lifeworksaustin.org)

#### Big Brothers

#### Big Sisters

#### of Central Texas

(512) 472-5437

[bbbs.org](http://bbbs.org)

[bigmentoring.org](http://bigmentoring.org)

#### Boys and Girls Clubs of the Capital Area

(512) 444-7199

[bgcaustin.org](http://bgcaustin.org)

#### Casey Family Programs

(512) 892-5890

[www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org)

#### CASA of Travis County

(512) 459-2272

[casatravis.org](http://casatravis.org)

#### Lifeline Family Enrichment

(512) 779-3539

[lifelinefamilyenrichment.com](http://lifelinefamilyenrichment.com)

#### SafePlace

(512) 267-7233

[safeplace.org](http://safeplace.org)

#### Center for Child Protection

(512) 472-1164

[centerforchildprotection.org](http://centerforchildprotection.org)

#### Any Baby Can

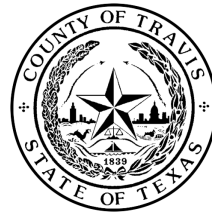
(512) 454-3743

[anybabycan.org](http://anybabycan.org)

#### Texas Foster Youth Justice Project

(877) 313-3688

[texasfosteryouth.org](http://texasfosteryouth.org)



Our mission is to provide  
quality legal services,  
improve outcomes  
for our clients  
and effect positive change  
in the child welfare system.



1700 Guadalupe, 5th Floor  
Austin, Tx 78701



P.O. Box 1748  
Austin, Tx 78767



Phone: (512) 854-7312  
Fax:: (512) 854-7316



[www.traviscountytexas.gov/  
criminal-justice/  
child-representation](http://www.traviscountytexas.gov/criminal-justice/child-representation)

Office of



Child  
Representation

*A Child's Voice  
in the Courtroom*





## The Office of Child Representation

*A Child's Voice in the Courtroom*



The Office of Child Representation (OCR) represents children in Travis County Child Protective Services cases which arise from allegations of child abuse and/or neglect by the children's caregivers.

### We work to:

- Enable our clients to take part in legal proceedings to the fullest extent possible
- Allow them to participate in decision-making that deeply affects their lives
- Ensure that their voices are heard

### How do we help our clients?

- Provide comprehensive legal and case management services
- Advocate for our clients' legal needs
- Assist clients in gaining access to necessary services
- Educate the child welfare system about issues that affect our clients
- Visit our clients where they live
- Counsel clients in ways that are age-appropriate
- Represent our clients' interests in hearings, mediations and trials

### Who are our clients?

*Children who are:*

- Newborn babies to 21 years old
- Of diverse origins and backgrounds

*Children who may have:*

- Special physical, cognitive or educational needs
- Challenging medical, behavioral or therapeutic conditions

### Where do our clients live?

- At home with a parent or parents
- With a grandparent or other relatives
- With friends of the family
- In children's shelters or foster care
- In therapeutic environments or transitional living programs

### How do children get attorneys?

- Under Texas law, every child with an open Child Protective Services (CPS) case is entitled to an attorney ad litem
- OCR attorneys are appointed by the Travis County District Courts as attorneys ad litem to represent child clients.

### Our team:

**Dylan Moench, Chief Counsel**

**Kelly Gourley, Office Manager, Sr.**

**Nancy Stait, Staff Attorney**

**Lucie Jones Guajardo, Staff Attorney**

**Emmarie Foerster, Staff Attorney**

**Christine MacDonald, Staff Attorney**

**Kimberly Vincent, Staff Attorney**

**JaQuoiya Coleman, Social Worker**

**Audra Stratman, Social Worker**

**Sebastian Buantello, Paralegal, Sr.**

**George Cruz, Paralegal, Jr.**

**Taylor Williams, Legal Secretary**