

# Free Legal Advice / Representation

## Volunteer Legal Services

### How does VLS help?

Volunteer Legal Services (VLS) helps **low income** people with family law and other civil legal problems by providing **free legal advice** and **free volunteer lawyers**.

VLS does not help with criminal or immigration cases.

### How do I get free legal advice?

#### Over the Phone

Get free legal advice over the phone by applying online at <https://www.vlsoct.org/get-help/vls-legal-advice-phone-clinic/>. The online application is open most weeks on **Mondays at 9am**.

#### In Person

Get free legal advice by going to one of the in-person legal clinics. For more information, visit <https://www.vlsoct.org/get-help/vls-in-person-legal-advice-clinics/>. **Sign in between 6pm and 7pm**. See below for in-person clinic location and dates.

#### **Austin Public Library – St. John Branch** **7500 Blessing Avenue, Austin, TX 78752**

| Last Wednesday of Most Months |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| April 26                      | September 27 |
| May 24                        | October 25   |
| June 28                       | November 15  |
| August 30                     | December 6   |

#### **Austin Public Library – Ruiz Branch** **1600 Grove Blvd, Austin, TX 78741**

| Second Wednesday of Most Months |
|---------------------------------|
| May 10                          |
| June 14                         |
| August 9                        |
| September 13                    |

## Texas RioGrande Legal Aid

### How does TRLA help?

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) helps **low income** people with family law and other civil legal problems by providing **free legal aid lawyers**.

TRLA does not help with criminal or immigration cases.

### How do I apply for a legal aid lawyer?

Apply for a free legal aid lawyer by calling one of the hotlines listed below. All hotlines are open Mon – Fri, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- **General Intake Hotline at 956-996-8752**  
**Or Toll free: 1-833-329-8752**  
For all civil legal problems. For family law, call Tuesday or Thursday.
- **Disaster Legal Assistance Hotline at 1-866-757-1570**  
For low income people affected by disaster declarations.
- **Foster Youth Hotline at 1-877-313-3688**  
For current and former foster youth.
- **Legal Aid for Survivors of Sexual Assault at 1-800-991-5153 or online at [legallaidforsurvivors.org](http://legallaidforsurvivors.org)**  
For survivors of sexual assault.
- **Veterans Advocacy Project at 512-374-2753.**  
For low income veterans, their spouses, and dependents.

**In an emergency**, you can apply for help in person at:  
TRLA Austin Office  
4920 N I-35, Austin, TX  
**Emergency Walk-In Hours:** Mon – Fri 8 a.m.– 5 p.m.

## Texas Advocacy Project

Get free legal advice by calling Texas Advocacy Project **Hope Line - 1-800-374-HOPE (4673)**  
Mon – Fri 9 a.m.– 5 p.m.  
For survivors of family violence or sexual assault.

The **Austin Lawyer Referral Service** hosts a free legal advice hotline on the **first Tuesday of each month** from **5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at 512-472-8303**. Attorneys are available to give brief legal advice for family, criminal, consumer, business, and other areas of law.

# Helpful Numbers & Websites

## Referrals

**Lawyer Referral Service** 512-472-8303

[www.austinlrs.com](http://www.austinlrs.com)

- Callers referred to private lawyers
- **Match Program**—reduced-fee program for low-income callers
- **Limited Scope Representation** Hire a lawyer for limited purpose, such as legal advice, form review, hearing prep, etc.

**First Call for Help: Dial 211**

24-Hour community service referral

## Free Legal Forms / Info

**Travis County Law Library** 512-854-8677

1700 Guadalupe Street, 2nd floor

Austin, TX 78701

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

- Free court forms and help from law library attorneys with uncontested Travis County family law cases

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

- Free legal forms and information
- LiveChat with lawyer or law student

## Mediation

**Dispute Resolution Center** 512-371-0033

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

## Housing

**Austin Tenants Council Project**

512-474-1961 M-F 9am-12pm

[www.trla.org/atc](http://www.trla.org/atc)

**Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid** 956-996-8752

or 512-374-2700

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

**Volunteer Legal Services** 512-476-5550

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

## Child Support

**Domestic Relations Office** 512-854-9696

[www.traviscountytexas.gov/dro](http://www.traviscountytexas.gov/dro)

**Attorney General's Office** 800-252-8014

[www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support)

## CPS

**Texas Legal Services Center**

844-888-6565 M-F 9am-6pm

<https://www.tlsc.org/family>

- Family Helpline provides information about the CPS process

## Visitation

**Access and Visitation Hotline**

1-866-292-4636 M-F 1-5 p.m.

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

**Domestic Relations Office**

512-854-9696

[www.traviscountytexas.gov/dro](http://www.traviscountytexas.gov/dro)

- Visitation orders enforced
- Maintains list of organizations that provide **supervised visitation** and **supervised exchange** of children

## Counseling

**Austin Child Guidance Center**

512-451-2242

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

- Counseling for children

**Lifeworks** 512-735-2400

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

- Youth and adult counseling

**YWCA Women's Counseling and Referral Center** 512-326-1222

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

- Low cost counseling for women

**Capital Area Counseling**

512-302-1000

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

- Low cost psychological counseling

## Elder Law

**Family Eldercare** 512-450-0844

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

**Legal Hotline for Texans**

800-622-2520, Option 3

[www.tlsc.org/seniors](http://www.tlsc.org/seniors)

## Veterans

**Legal Hotline for Veterans**

1-800-622-2520, Option 2

[www.tlsc.org/veterans](http://www.tlsc.org/veterans)

**Veterans Legal Assistance Program**

512-472-0279 x110

[www.austinbar.org/?pg=veterans](http://www.austinbar.org/?pg=veterans)

## Family Violence

**Travis County Attorney's Office**

512-854-9415

- Protective orders for victims of family violence

**Safe Alliance**

**24-hour Hotline** 512-267-SAFE (7233)

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

- Emergency shelter, counseling, and other support for survivors of family violence or sexual assault

**Texas Advocacy Project**

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

HopeLine 1-800-374-HOPE (4673)

## Other Hotlines

**Texas Abuse Hotline** 1-800-252-5400

- Report abuse or neglect of children and elderly or disabled adults

**MHMR Crisis Hotline** 512-472-4357

- Telephone counseling, crisis and suicide prevention

**Lifeworks Youth Crisis Hotline**

512-473-9125

**Texas Legal Hotline** 1-800-622-2520

## Immigration Law

**American Gateways** 512-478-0546

**Casa Marianella** 512-385-5571

**Catholic Charities** 512-651-6100

**RAICES** 512-994-2199

## Disability Law

**Disability Rights Texas**

1-800-252-9108 (Voice / TDD)

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

## HIV / AIDS

**Vivent Health Austin**

512-458-2437

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

## Travis County

**District Clerk** 512-854-9457

**Constable 5** 512-854-9100

**Law Library** 512-854-8677