

Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library



Reentry and Criminal Law Resources

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Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth
Law Library is a division of the Office
of the Harris County Attorney
Christian D. Menefee.

Table of Contents

1. [Books at the Law Library](#)
 - a. Reentry
 - b. Statutes and Primary Sources: Criminal Law
 - c. Treatises and Secondary Sources: Criminal Law
 - d. Criminal Law Forms
 - e. Criminal Practice and Procedure
 - f. Sentences and Sentencing
 - g. Law Enforcement
 - h. Constitutional and Civil Rights
 - i. Traffic Laws, DWIs
 - j. Continuing Legal Education (CLE)
2. [Common criminal law issues](#)
 - a. Criminal representation
 - b. DWI, traffic tickets and citations
 - c. Identification
 - d. Juvenile criminal records
 - e. Misdemeanors and felonies
 - f. Occupational licenses
 - g. Parole, pardons, and clemency
 - h. Restore seized property
3. [Forms and legal resources for incarcerated persons](#)
 - a. Forms: Texas and Harris County
 - b. Filing a grievance or suing for mistreatment while incarcerated
 - c. Marriage and divorce while incarcerated
 - d. Medical information and care requests
 - e. Notarizing documents while incarcerated
4. [Expunctions & nondisclosures](#)
5. [Support during incarceration & post-release](#)

- a. General information
 - b. Commissary & financial support while incarcerated
 - c. Healthcare while incarcerated
 - d. Mental health care while incarcerated
 - e. Post-release financial support
 - f. Prisoner & prison library book donations
 - g. Visitation
6. [Support for families of incarcerated persons](#)
- a. Family visitation transportation services
 - b. How to find an inmate
7. [Reentry resources](#)
- a. General information
 - b. Houston, Harris County, and Texas reentry programs
 - c. Employment and financial recovery
 - d. Housing
 - e. Voting rights

Books at the Law Library

Reentry

- **Locked Out: A Texas Legal Guide to Reentry**, Beacon Law, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Texas C-bar, 2019. (self-help collection) (also available online)
- **Expunctions in Texas**, Texas Young Lawyers Association, Family Law Committee, 2010. (self-help collection)
- **Expunction & Nondisclosure**, Andrea Westfield, Texas District & County Attorneys Association, 2018. (reference desk)

Statutes and Primary Sources: Criminal Law

- **Vernon's Texas Statutes Annotated: Code of Criminal Procedure**, West, 2021 (Texas Criminal Section).
- **Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated: Penal Code**, West, 2021. (Texas Criminal Section)

Treatises and Secondary Sources: Criminal Law

- **O'Connor's Texas Crimes & Consequences**, T.B. Todd DuPont II, O'Connor's, 2021-2022. (reference desk)
- **O'Connor's Texas Criminal Codes Plus**, George McCall Secrest, Jr., O'Connor's, 2021-2022. (reference desk)
- **Kinkeade & McColloch's Texas Penal Code Annotated**, West, 2021-22. (reference desk)
- **Texas Criminal Jury Charges**, Judge Elizabeth Berry, et al., James, 2022. (reference desk)

- **Texas Criminal Pattern Jury Charges**, State Bar of Texas Committee on Pattern Jury Charges – Criminal, 2020. (reference desk)
- **The Criminal Law Handbook: Know Your Rights, Survive the System**, Paul Bergman & Sara J. Berman, NOLO, 2022. (self-help collection)
- **White Collar Crime**, Joel M. Androphy, West, 2020. (Criminal Section) (KF 9350 .A93)

Criminal Law Forms

- **Texas Criminal Forms**, Robert K. Gill & Mark G. Daniel, James Publishing, 2020. (reference desk)
- **Texas Criminal Defense Forms Annotated: State and Federal Trial, Appellate and Ancillary**, W. V. Dunnam, Knowles, 2011. (Texas Criminal Section) (KFT 1766.5 A65 D86)

Criminal Practice and Procedure

- **Texas Criminal Procedure: Code and Rules**, West, 2021. (reference desk)
- **Texas Criminal Procedure and the Offender with Mental Illness: An Analysis and Guide**, Brian D. Shannon & Daniel H. Benson, NAMI Texas, 2021. (KF 1766.6 .S52)
- **Texas Criminal Practice Guide**, Marvin O. Teague, Matthew Bender, 2021. (Texas Criminal Section) (KFT 1775 .T48)
- **Texas Practice Guide: Criminal Practice and Procedure**, D. Mark Elliston & Terrence W. Kirk, West, 2021. (Texas Criminal Section)
- **Texas Practice Series: Volumes 6, 7, 7A, 8, 40, 41, 42, 43A, 43B**, West, 2022. (Texas Criminal Section)

- **Criminal Defense Techniques**, Robert M. Cipes, Matthew Bender, 2022. (Criminal Section) (KF 9656 .C74)
- **Erisman's Reversible Errors in Texas Criminal Cases**, Fred Erisman, Knowles, 2010. (Texas Criminal Section) (KFT 1775 .A53 E7)
- **Texas Criminal Lawyer's Handbook**, Robert K. Gill & Mark G. Daniel, James, 2020. (reference desk)

Sentences and Sentencing

- **Texas Sentencing**, 6th Edition, John Bradley, Juris Publishing, 2014. (Texas Criminal Section) (KFT 1783.2 .A953)
- **Federal Sentencing Guidelines Manual**, United States Sentencing Commission, West, 2020. (Criminal Section) (KF 9609.99 .U5822)
- **Federal Sentencing Law and Practice**, Thomas W. Hutchison and David Yellen, West, 2016. (Criminal Section) (KF 9685 .H8)

Law Enforcement

- **Police Misconduct: Law and Litigation**, West, 2021-2022. (Criminal Section) (KF 9409 .A98)
- **Texas Search and Seizure**, 7th Edition, Judge Robert R. Barton, Juris Publishing, 2019. (Texas Criminal Section) (KFT 1776.5 .B37)
- **Search and Seizure Checklists**, Michele G. Hermann, West, 2021. (KF 9630 .Z9 H47)
- **Law of Confessions**, David M. Nissman and Ed Hagen, Clark Boardman Callaghan, 2021. (Criminal Section) (KF 9664 .N57)

- **Wiretapping and Eavesdropping**, Clifford S. Fishman and Anne T. McKenna, West, 2021-2022. (Criminal Section) (KF 9670 .F57)

Constitutional and Civil Rights

- **Constitutional Rights of the Accused**, Joseph G. Cook, Clark Boardman Callaghan, 2021-2022. (Criminal Section) (KF 9625 .C66 1996)
- **Criminal Constitutional Law**, David S. Rudstein, M. Bender, 2021. (Criminal Section) (KF 9619 .R88)
- **Rights of Prisoners**, Michael B. Mushlin, Tomson Reuters/West, 2021. (KF 9731 .G6)
- **Prisoner's Rights: A Legal Research Guide**, Carol A. Fichtelman, William S. Hein & Co., Inc., 2017. (Texas Criminal Section) (KF 9371 .F53)

Traffic Laws, DWIs

- **Transportation Code Crimes & License Suspensions**, Diane Beckham, Texas District & County Attorneys Association, 2015-2017. (Texas Criminal Section) (KFT 1496 .A3)
- **Traffic Stops**, Diane Burch Beckham, Texas District & County Attorneys Association, 2018. (reference desk)
- **Texas Criminal and Traffic Procedural Manual**, Larry E. Holtz & Warren J. Spencer, Blue360 Media, LLC, 2021. (reference desk)
- **Texas Traffic Laws**, Blue360 Media, LLC, 2019-2020. (reference desk)
- **Administrative License Revocation Manual: A Practitioner's Guide to Administrative License**

Revocation, Lawrence G. Boyd, Knowles, 2018.
(reference desk)

- **Texas DWI Manual**, Deandra M. Grant & Kimberly Griffin Tucker, James, 2021 (Texas Criminal Section). (KFT 1497.8 .G73)
- **DWI Investigation & Prosecution**, Richard Alpert, Texas District & County Attorneys Association, 2016. (Texas Criminal Section) (KFT 1497.8 .A95 A46)
- **Texas Drunk Driving Law**, 4th Edition, J. Gary Trichter & W. Troy McKinney, Lexis, 2014. (Texas Criminal Section) (KFT 1497.8 T74)

Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

- **Advanced Criminal Law Course**, State Bar of Texas. (CLE - Section C) Coverage: 1978-1979, 1982-2018.
- **Criminal Law 101**, State Bar of Texas. (CLE - Section C) Coverage: 2010-2021.

Common criminal law issues

Criminal representation

- **State Counsel for Offenders**
<https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/tbcj/scfo/index.html>
Contact information for the State Counsel for Offenders (SCFO), which provides legal counsel and representation to indigent persons incarcerated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).
- **Trial Support - Harris County Public Defender's Office**

<http://harriscountypublicdefender.org/trial-support/>

The Harris County Public Defender's Office offers several trial support services for defense attorneys and their clients, including: a legal resource library, closet with court-appropriate clothing, and certain legal forms. The Public Defender's Office is located on the 13th floor of the Harris County Criminal Justice Center (1201 Franklin Street).

- **How do I get a free criminal defense lawyer? - TexasLawHelp**

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/how-do-i-get-a-free-criminal-defense-lawyer>

Article with basic information on requesting a court appointed attorney for a criminal case.

- **Getting a Lawyer for Your Criminal Case - Nolo**
<https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/getting-lawyer-your-criminal-case>

Collection of articles on how to find and work with a private or public (court appointed) criminal defense attorneys.

- **Defending Yourself in a Criminal Case: The Dangers of Being Your Own Lawyer, Even for a Misdemeanor**

https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Consider_a_State_Bar_Committee&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=28743

Handout with information about a criminal defendant's right to a defense attorney and the duties of a court appointed criminal defense attorney.

DWI, traffic tickets and citations

- **Driving Under the Influence - Texas Department of Transportation**

<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/traffic/safety/sober-safe/intoxication.html>

Brief overview of the penalties for a DWI and other driving under the influence offenses in Texas.

- **Texas Driver's Handbook - Chapter 10: Alcohol and Drug Impact on the Driving Ability**

<https://dmv-permit-test.com/js/pdfjs/web/viewer.html?file=/js/pdfjs/handbook/texas.pdf#%5B%7B%22num%22%3A250%2C%22gen%22%3A0%7D%2C%7B%22name%22%3A%22Fit%22%7D%5D>

This chapter from the Texas Driver's Handbook provides a detailed overview of the laws, offenses, and penalties related to driving while under the influence.

- **Guide to Traffic Court - TexasLawHelp**

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/guide-to-traffic-court>

This article from the Texas Young Lawyers Association answers frequently asked questions about traffic court.

- **Ticket Help Texas: A Toolkit to Resolve Your Unpaid Fines & Restore Your Driver's License**

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/ticket-help-texas-toolkit-resolve-your-unpaid-fines-restore-your-drivers-license>

This toolkit offers resources for Texans who owe fines and costs in criminal cases that they are unable to pay, including those who are unable to obtain a driver's license due to unpaid fines.

- **Saving Ourselves By Education and Recovery (SOBER) Court - Harris County**
<https://www.justiceforwardtx.org/sober-court>
Program with the Criminal Courts of Harris County intended to provide sentencing alternatives to incarceration for DWI offenses.

Identification

- **Locked Out: A Texas Legal Guide to Reentry**
https://texaslawhelp.org/sites/default/files/legal_guide_to_reentry_-_4th_edition_-_2019_final.pdf
Chapters 1 & 2 in this guide from Beacon Law address common issues with obtaining identification documents after release from incarceration.
- **Replacing Lost Documents - Texas Law Help**
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/replacing-lost-documents>
Information about replacing identification documents such as a passport, driver license, green card, or social security card.

Juvenile criminal records

- **Sealing Juvenile Court Records in Texas - Texas Foster Youth Justice Project**
http://www.texasfosteryouth.org/downloads/sealing_juvenile_records.pdf
Answers to frequently asked questions about sealing juvenile criminal records in Texas.
- **Juvenile Justice Records: Sealing and Restricted Access - TexasLawHelp**
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/juvenile-justice-records-sealing-and-restricted-access>

Article and additional resources on accessing, sealing, and expunging juvenile criminal records in Texas.

Misdemeanors and felonies

- **Texas Penal Code Ch. 12: Punishments**
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PE/htm/PE.12.htm>
This chapter of the Texas Penal Code defines misdemeanors and felonies and their punishments.
- **Texas Crimes by Class and Punishments**
<https://www.nealdavislaw.com/criminal-defense-guides/texas-crimes-and-punishments.html>
This blog post provides an overview of the difference between felonies and misdemeanors, their classes, and their punishments.
- **School-Based Class C Misdemeanors - TexasLawHelp**
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/school-based-class-c-misdemeanors>
This article explains when a student may be charged for a crime at their school.

Occupational licenses

- **Occupational Driver's License - TexasLawHelp**
<https://texaslawhelp.org/guide/occupational-drivers-license>
Instructions and forms for applying for an occupational driver's license (ODL) which allows someone whose license was revoked or suspended to drive under certain circumstances.
- **Guidelines for License Applicants with Criminal Convictions - Texas Department of Licensing and**

Regulation

<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/crimconvict.htm>

Guidelines for reviewing criminal convictions of those applying for or reinstating occupational licenses with the Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Parole, Pardons, and Clemency

- **Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles**

<https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/bpp/index.htm>

The Board of Pardons and Paroles decides which eligible offenders to release on parole or discretionary mandatory supervision and recommends clemency and pardons to the Governor. Main office: (512) 406-5452. Parole Status Line: (844) 512-0461.

- **Parole in Texas: Answers to Common Questions**

- (English)

https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/documents/pd/PIT_English.pdf

- (Spanish)

https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/documents/pd/PIT_Spanish.pdf

- **FAQs: Clemency Process - Texas Board of Parole and Pardons**

<https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/bpp/faq/ClemencyProcess.html>

Answers to frequently asked questions about the clemency process in Texas.

- **The Statute of Limitations in Texas Criminal Cases**

<https://versustexas.com/statute-of-limitations/>

Blog post outlining the statute of limitations for common criminal cases in Texas. Please note that this

information may not be currently updated and it is best to consult with an attorney to determine the statute of limitations for an individual case.

Restore seized property

- **Property Division - Houston Police Department**
<https://www.houstontx.gov/police/divisions/property/index.htm>
Instructions for retrieving property seized by the Houston Police Department.

Forms and legal resources for incarcerated persons

Forms: Texas and Harris County

- **Offender Forms - Texas State Law Library**
<https://guides.sll.texas.gov/legal-forms/offender-forms>
Commonly requested legal forms for offenders and currently incarcerated persons in Texas.
- **Downloadable Forms - Harris County District Clerk**
<https://www.hcdistrictclerk.com/Common/Forms/forms.aspx#CriminalBureauForms>
Sample forms from the Criminal Bureau of Harris County.
- **Forms - Texas Justice Court Training Center**
<https://www.tjctc.org/tjctc-resources/forms/>
Sample forms made available by the Texas Justice

Court Training Center, including criminal procedure forms.

- **Checklist for Filings in the Court of Criminal Appeals - TXcourts.gov**

<https://www.txcourts.gov/media/208125/checklist-for-filings-in-cca-revised-eff-07172015.pdf>

Overview of the general requirements and deadlines for filing an appeal in the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Child support and paternity

- **Child Support Inquiry Form for Incarcerated Parents**

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/incarcerated-parent/Inquiry-form.pdf>

Use this form to request information about your child support case from the Office of the Attorney General. You may use this form to request an “Incarcerated Non-Custodial Parent Affidavit of Income/Assets,” which is required when requesting a review of a child support case.

- **Authorization for Release of Information and Payment**

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/incarcerated-parent/auth-for-release-of-info-or-pymt.pdf>

This form may be used by an incarcerated person to designate another person or company to receive information about a child support case or to receive child support payments on the incarcerated person’s behalf.

- **Affidavit of Direct Payment**
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/forms/direct-payment.pdf>
This form is used to document child, medical, and dental support payments made to a custodial parent by a non-custodial parent.
- **Handbook for Non-Custodial Parents**
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/Publications/qa-ncp-handbook.pdf>
This handbook from the Office of the Attorney General provides information to incarcerated non-custodial parents about paternity establishment and child support services.
- **Incarceration, Re-Entry and Child Support Information for Incarcerated Parents and Parents Returning to the Community Handbook**
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/aop/incarcerated.pdf>
This handbook from the Office of the Attorney General answers frequently asked questions about paying child support while incarcerated and the child support review process.

Filing a grievance or suing for mistreatment while incarcerated

- **Filing a Grievance in Prison or Jail - TexasLawHelp**
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/filing-a-grievance-in-a-texas-prison-or-jail>
This article provides information on filing a grievance

about a problem in a TDCJ or Texas Youth Commission prison before filing a lawsuit.

- **Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual - Columbia University**
<http://jlm.law.columbia.edu/>
A handbook of legal rights and procedures designed for use by people in prison and their legal representation.

Marriage and divorce while incarcerated

- **Offender Marriages Policy - Texas Department of Criminal Justice**
<https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/documents/policy/AD0342.pdf>
Policy on offender marriages on TDCJ property and contracted facilities.
- **Affidavit of Absent Application on Application for Marriage License (Harris County)**
<https://www.cclerk.hctx.net/Forms/Uploads/D/D0241.pdf?t=>
Sample form from the Harris County Clerk's office for applying for a marriage license when one party is unable to appear before the court clerk when the license is issued.
- **Service and Issuance of a Citation When the Other Side is Incarcerated - TexasLawHelp**
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/service-and-issuance-citation-when-other-side-incarcerated>
Article on how to serve incarcerated persons with citations and documents for family law cases.

Medical information and care requests

- **Requesting Medical Care in Prison - TexasLawHelp**
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/requesting-medical-care-in-a-texas-prison>
 Article on how to request medical care while incarcerated and what to do if a request is not answered.
- **Medical Releases: How to Check on a Prisoner's Medical Condition - Texas Jail Project**
https://www.texasjailproject.org/medical_release_for_m/
 Step-by-step instructions for checking on a prisoner's medical condition by obtaining and submitting a medical release form.
- **FAQs: Getting medical information from a county jail -Texas Jail Project**
<https://www.texasjailproject.org/faqs-how-to-secure-medical-information-from-a-county-jail/>
 Answers to frequently asked questions about medical release forms and inmate medical records.

Notarizing documents while incarcerated

- **A Guide To Notarizing For Prison Inmates - National Notary Association**
<https://www.nationalnotary.org/notary-bulletin/blog/2016/07/guide-notarizing-for-prison-inmates>
 Information about notarizing legal documents for incarcerated persons.
- **Unsworn Declaration: Information, Instructions, & Forms**
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/unsworn-declaration->

[information-instructions-and-forms](#)

Information, instructions, and forms for an unsworn declaration, which may replace the requirement for a notary in some cases. Includes an unsworn declaration form for inmates.

Expunctions & nondisclosures

- **I need to clear an arrest from my record (expunction).** - TexasLawHelp
<https://texaslawhelp.org/guide/i-need-to-clear-an-arrest-from-my-record-expunction>
Instructions and forms for requesting an expunction of entries from an adult criminal record.
- **FAQs - Clearing an Arrest from your Record (expunction)** - TexasLawHelp
<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/faqs-%E2%80%93-clearing-arrest-from-your-record-expunction>
Answers to frequently asked questions about clearing an arrest from your record through expunction.
- **Nondisclosure Order Prep Guide** - TexasLawHelp
<https://texaslawhelp.org/guide/nondisclosure-order-prep-guide>
Use this guide to determine whether you qualify for a nondisclosure order and to access instructions and forms.
- **Rules & Forms: Orders of Nondisclosure** - Texas Judicial Branch
<https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/orders-of-nondisclosure/>
Sample forms for nondisclosure orders from the Texas Judicial Branch.

- **Filing a Pro Se Expunction - Harris County District Clerk's Office**
https://www.hcdistrictclerk.com/Common/Civil/pdf/Expunction_Filing_ProSe.pdf
 A guide on filing and setting a hearing for an expunction in Harris County without attorney representation.
- **Clear Your Record Harris County**
<https://clearyourrecordharriscounty.org/>
 Online tool for checking your eligibility to have cases cleared from your Harris County criminal record.
- **Texas Fresh Start Guide**
<https://georgetown.neotalogic.com/a/TexasFreshStartV2>
 See if you qualify to have your criminal record cleared (expunction) or sealed (nondisclosure).
- **Clean Slate Texas**
<https://www.cleanslatetexas.org/>
 Collective of nonprofit organizations in Texas that provide information and resources on sealing and clearing criminal records.
- **Expunctions in Texas - Texas Young Lawyers Association & State Bar of Texas**
https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Our_Legal_System1&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=23459
 Handbook providing a detailed overview of expunction and nondisclosure orders in Texas.

Support during incarceration and post-release

General information

- **How Do I...? For Supervised Inmates - Texas Department of Criminal Justice**
https://tdcj.texas.gov/how_offenders.html
Answers to frequently asked questions about inmates held by TDCJ, including questions about release, transfers, telephone calls, visitation, commissary, post-release transportation, and medical care.
- **Offender Orientation Handbook - Texas Department of Criminal Justice**
https://tdcj.texas.gov/documents/Offender_Orientation_Handbook_English.pdf
Information for offenders on policies and rules in TDCJ prisons.

Commissary & financial support while incarcerated

- **Official TDCJ Commissary & Trust Fund Deposit**
<https://tdcj-ecommdirect.portal.texas.gov/>
Direct purchase program for making deposits into the commissary or trust fund account of an inmate incarcerated by TDCJ.
- **Inmate Commissary Purchases and FAQ - TDCJ**
<https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/faq/ecommm.html>
Answers to frequently asked questions about commissary purchases for TDCJ inmates.

- **Donate - Texas Jail Project**
<https://www.texasjailproject.org/donate/>
Donate to vulnerable populations incarcerated in Texas county jails.
- **Commissary and Post-Release Microgrants for Incarcerated Trans People**
<https://translifeline.org/microgrants/#faq>
Donate to commissary and post-release financial support funds for trans-identified Texans.

Healthcare while incarcerated

- **Correctional Managed Health Care Services**
<https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/cmhc/services.html>
Information about health care services available to adult offenders incarcerated in Texas prisons and state jail facilities.
- **Health coverage options for incarcerated people - HealthCare.gov**
<https://www.healthcare.gov/incarcerated-people/>
Information about how to acquire health care coverage while incarcerated, post release, and if you are being held in a prison pending disposition of charges.
- **Mothers and Infants Nurturing Together (MINT) - Volunteers of America**
<https://www.voatx.org/mint>
Texas-based support program for non-violent offenders who expect to deliver a child while incarcerated.

Mental health services while incarcerated

- **Is Your Loved One with Mental Illness Being Held in a Local County Jail? - Texas Jail Project**
<https://www.texasjailproject.org/mental-health/>
Recommendations for advocating for an incarcerated loved one with mental illness.
- **Overview of TDCJ Mental Health Services**
<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/84R/handouts/C3822016060210001/11f0b93f-46d1-4dad-bb0b-8c390c491fe8.PDF>
PowerPoint presentation on the mental health services available to prisoners incarcerated in a TDCJ facility.

Post-release financial support

- **Benefits after Incarceration - Social Security Administration**
<https://www.ssa.gov/reentry/benefits.htm>
Information about acquiring Social Security retirement, survivors, or disability benefits upon release from incarceration. Toll-free number: (800) 772-1213.
- **Students with Criminal Convictions - Federal Student Aid**
<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements/criminal-convictions>
Information about eligibility for federal and state student aid for those with prior criminal convictions.

Prisoner & prison library book donations

- **Inside Books Project**
<https://insidebooksproject.org/>
Austin-based volunteer organization that sends free

books and educational materials directly to prisoners in Texas.

- **Bookstores that Ship to Texas Prisons**
<https://prisonroster.com/texas-prison-bookstores/>
List of authorized bookstores that can ship books directly to someone incarcerated in Texas.
- **LGBT Books to Prisoners**
<https://lgbtbookstoprisoners.org/donate/>
Program that sends free books to incarcerated LGBTQ-identified people in the United States.
- **Women's Prison Book Project**
<https://wpbp.org/>
Program that sends free books and reading materials to women and transgender persons incarcerated in the United States.

Visitation

- **Inmate Visitation - Harris County Texas Sheriff's Office**
<https://harriscountyso.org/JailInfo/InmateVisitation>
Information about in-person and video visitation for families and attorneys of inmates in the Harris County Jail.
- **Offender Rules and Regulations for Visitation - Texas Department of Criminal Justice**
https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/documents/cid/Offender_Rules_and_Regulations_for_Visitation_English.pdf
Handbook of rules and regulations for visiting someone incarcerated by TDCJ.
- **I-164 Form - Application to Visit TDCJ Inmate as Attorney/Consul Representative**
<https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/documents/policy/I->

[164_Form.pdf](#)

Form for attorneys to apply for visitation of a TDCJ inmate.

- **TDCJ Online Visitation Portal**
<https://visitation.tdcj.texas.gov/Visitation/startLoginAction.action>
Use this online portal to create a visitor profile prior to scheduling a visit with an inmate at a TDCJ unit.

Support for families of incarcerated persons

- **Texas Inmate Families Association**
<https://tifa.org/>
Nonprofit organization with resources and programs for families of incarcerated Texans.
- **Incarcerated Parents Program - Office of the Attorney General**
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/incarcerated-parents>
Assistance for incarcerated parents with child support questions and concerns. Retrieve information about a child support case, request a review for modification, or get information about establishing paternity.
- **Incarcerated Parents & Parents Returning to the Community Handbook**
(English)
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/Publications/incarcerated.pdf>

(Spanish)

https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/files/child-support/Publications/Spanish_Publications/17099_Incarcerated_Parents_SPAN_accessible.pdf

This handbook from the Office of the Attorney General has information and resources for incarcerated parents about child custody, support, and paternity issues.

- **The National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated**
<https://nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu/>
Resources, research, and other assistance for those working with families impacted by incarceration.
- **Prison Families Alliance**
<https://prisonfamiliesalliance.org/>
Resources and peer support for families and individuals impacted by the incarceration of a loved one.
- **GO KIDS (Giving Offenders' Kids Incentive and Direction to Succeed)**
https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/gokids/gokids_resources_in_community.html
List of community programs and services available to probationers, parolees, their families, and the families of those incarcerated in TDCJ facilities.
- **TX Hospitality Houses - For Visiting Families**
<http://www.brokenchains.us/tdcj/txhospitalityhouses.html>
List of Texas organizations that provide overnight shelter, support, and refreshments for families who

are waiting for visitation times at correctional facilities.

Family visitation transportation services

- Texas Inmate Express Services (TIES): **214-330-8400**
- LJ Enterprises Shuttle Services: **773-259-2345**

How to find an inmate

- **Jail Information - Harris County Texas Sheriff's Office**
<https://harriscountyso.org/JailInfo/Default>
General information about Harris County jails, including inmate visitation, mail, phone calls, and trust funds. Search for inmates, warrants, and court and case information.
- **Unit Directory - Texas Department of Criminal Justice**
https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/unit_directory/index.html
Directory of TDCJ prison units and locations.
- **Texas State Criminal Records and FAQ's**
<https://texas.staterecords.org/criminal.php>
Access the Texas Criminal Records database. Also provides answers to frequently asked questions about criminal records, criminal offenses, and parole in Texas.

Reentry resources

General information

- **A New Start: A Reentry Guide for Texas**
https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/documents/rid/RID_Article_A_New_Start.pdf
 The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition with information and resources on common topics related to reentry, including preparing for release from incarceration, community organizations, housing, employment, benefits and assistance, and education.
- **Reentry Resource Guide (TDCJ)**
https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/documents/rid/RID_Reentry_Resource_Guide.pdf
 List of reentry programs offered across Texas.
- **Restrictions After a Felony Conviction Database - Texas State Law Library**
<https://www.sll.texas.gov/library-resources/collections/restrictions-after-a-felony-conviction/>
 Database of possible restrictions after being charged with a felony conviction in Texas.

Houston, Harris County, and Texas reentry programs

- **Restoring Justice**
<https://www.restoringjustice.org/about>
 Houston-based nonprofit organization that provides representation to marginalized community members facing criminal charges.
- **Community Re-Entry Network Program - Houston Health Department**
<https://www.houstontx.gov/health/CRNP/>
 Program from the Houston Health Department that provides ex-offenders with counseling and support. Main number: (832) 393-5467.

- **Beacon Law**
<http://www.beaconlaw.org/>
Houston-based nonprofit organization providing legal services to low-income and homeless individuals.
- **Texas Care Prisoner Reentry Program**
<https://www.texascarecenter.com/services/texas-care-prisoner-reentry-program.html>
Mental health and emotional care programs for those reentering society after incarceration.
- **Reentry and Justice County Resources - Texas Criminal Justice Coalition**
<http://countyresources.texascjc.org/>
Find local reentry resources in your county, including housing, employment, and legal aid services.
- **Reentry and Integration Division - TDCJ**
<https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/rid/index.html>
The Reentry and Integration Division has a three-part Reentry Program, a Veteran Reentry Program, and a Reentry Hotline: (877) 887-6151.

Employment and financial recovery

- **Texas Workforce Solutions Houston-Galveston**
<https://www.wrksolutions.com/>
Gulf Coast-based organization that connects employees with qualified applicants and assists job seekers with job searches, career counseling, and financial aid for education or training.
- **Noncustodial Parent (NCP) Choices Program**
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/noncustodial-parent-ncp-choices>
The NCP Choices Program is a collaboration between

the Child Support Division of the Office of the Attorney General and Texas Workforce Commission. Eligible unemployed or “under-employed” noncustodial parents can be court-ordered into the NCP Choices Program to get help finding employment.

- **Goodwill of Houston Job Connection Centers**
<https://www.goodwillhouston.org/jobs/job-career-services/job-connection-centers/>
Call or visit a job connection center for resources to help prepare to enter or reenter the workforce.
- **Prison Entrepreneurship Program**
<https://www.pep.org/>
Houston-based nonprofit organization that conducts educational programs on entrepreneurship and financial empowerment to reentering and incarcerated offenders.
- **United Way of Greater Houston**
<https://www.unitedwayhouston.org/>
Houston-based nonprofit organization that provides education and resources for financial stability.
- **Reentry and Integration Division's Website for Work**
<https://reentry.tdcj.texas.gov/>
Statewide program connecting ex-offenders with employers and job opportunities.
- **Reentry and Corrections Education: Federal Trade Commission**
<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0039-reentry-and-corrections-education>
Resources for reentering and incarcerated offenders

on managing personal finances, purchasing or renting a car or home, and understanding credit and debt.

- **Career and Recovery Resources, Inc**

<https://www.careerandrecovery.org/>

Nonprofit organization that offers four core reentry programs: employment and career development, veteran & housing assistance, deaf and hard of hearing services, and alternative substance abuse treatment.

Housing

- **Houston Transitional Housing**

<https://www.transitionalhousing.org/ci/tx-houston>

List of transitional, rehabilitative, and sober housing centers and programs for ex-offenders in the Houston area.

- **Texas Residential Reentry Centers**

http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/divisions/pd/halfway_houses.html

List of transitional housing centers and programs for ex-offenders in Texas.

Voting rights

- **Restore Your Vote: I have a felony conviction. Can I vote?**

<https://campaignlegal.org/restoreyourvote>

Online tool for checking eligibility to register to vote in any state with a felony conviction.