

Veterans & Military Servicemembers Research Guide

Overview

This research guide provides information and resources specific to servicemembers, veterans, and military family members. Most resources in this guide focus on family law matters, such as temporary custody during deployment, divorce, and retirement benefits, but additional topics include overseas voting, VA benefits, and employment. 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

- Ch. 153 §153.701 *et seq* Military Duty (custody)
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/FA/htm/FA.153.htm#L>

Texas Government Code

- Ch. 657 Veteran's Employment Preferences
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/pdf/GV.657.pdf>

Texas Human Resources Code

- Ch. 137, Subchapter E. Preventative Services for Veterans and Military Families
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/HR/htm/HR.137.htm#E>

United States Code

- Title 38 Veteran's Benefits and the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CPRT-112HPRT65875/pdf/CPRT-112HPRT65875.pdf>

Secondary Resources in Print

Military Criminal Justice: Practice and Procedure KF 7620 .S34

Texas Family Law Practice and Procedure KFT 1294 .F35

- Vol. 1, Task B2 §B2.100 *et seq* Motion for Temporary Order Designating Person to Substitute for Custodial Parent on Military Duty

The Military Divorce Handbook: A Practical Guide to Representing Military Personnel and Their Families, 2d ed. KF 535 .S85

NOLO's Essential Guide to Divorce 9th ed. KF 535.Z9 D67

- Ch. 12 Military Divorce: Special Issues

NOLO's Divorced After 50: A Guide to the Unique Legal & Financial Challenges of Your Divorce 5th ed. REF KF 535 .Z9 G738

- Ch. 6 The Big-Ticket Items, Military Retirement, pgs. 173-176

Texas Family Law Practice Manual REF KFT 1294 .T4S7

- Vol. 3, Ch. 45 Military Duty of Conservator

CLE Materials

Advanced Family Law Drafting KFT 1294 .A92

- 2013 Ch. 20: Drafting Issues and Pitfalls in a Military Divorce by James N. Higdon
- 2001 Ch. P: Drafting to Incorporate changes in Military and Federal QDRO's by James N. Higdon

Marriage Dissolution Institute KFT 1300 .M372

- 2022 Ch. 5 Should've Been a Cowboy: Military Issue Other Than Retirement

Advanced Family Law Course KFT 1294 .S83

- 2002 Ch. 16: Soldiers, Sailors, & Military Divorces by James N. Higdon

Online Resources

Handling Your First or Next Specialty Court Case (PDF only)

- 2023 Ch. 9 Serving Those Who Served: An Overview of Veterans' Treatment Courts

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA):

- American Bar Association https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_services/milvets/aba_home_front/information_center/servicemembers_civil_relief_act/enforcing_your_rights_under_scra/
- United States Department of Justice <https://www.justice.gov/servicemembers/servicemembers-veterans-and-military-family-members>

Other Resources:

- Child Support Services – Additional Resources for Veterans and Military Families (DRO) <http://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/domestic-relations-office/child-support/additional-resources/veterans-and-military-families.html>
- Military and Overseas Voting by Mail (Tarrant County) <https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/en/elections/military-and-overseas-voting.html>
- How Do I Get a Divorce from a Spouse Overseas? (attorney blog) <https://www.apmillerlawgroup.com/blog/2020/july/how-do-i-get-a-divorce-from-a-spouse-overseas/>
- Ch. 1 Starting the Case (The Military Divorce Handbook) <https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba-cms-dotorg/products/inv/book/358661525/chap1excpt-5130233.pdf>

- HEROES Program for Service Members (Texas Attorney General) <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/child-support/programs-and-initiatives/heroes-program-service-members>
- Veterans Resources Guide (TSSL) <https://guides.sll.texas.gov/veterans-resources>
- Veterans & Military (Texas Law Help) <https://texaslawhelp.org/veterans-military>
- Tips for Military Parents <https://www.militarychild.org/>
- Texas Veterans Portal <https://veterans.portal.texas.gov/>
- United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) <https://www.va.gov/>
- Veteran Service Tarrant County <http://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/veteran-services.html>

Legal Assistance

Legal Assistance for Military Personnel

- The American Bar Association has a Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel. Additional information is available at https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_assistance_military_personnel/
- Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans also provides services. Additional information is available at <https://txltxv.org/>
 - Phone: 817-546-4460
- Legal & Financial (Texas Veterans Portal) <https://veterans.portal.texas.gov/legal/>
- Military OneSource provides free legal services for military personnel, their families. And veterans. Information is available at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/legal/>