THE INFORMATION EDGE

Current Legal News
from Collin County's
Curt B. Henderson Law Library

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Listen and Learn Hours

Questions about Advance Care, like living wills, powers of attorney, wills?
Our 5th Listen and Learn Hour, on **Thursday, September 24, 2026, 12:30 - 1:30 pm** will address **Advance Care**.

Are you facing eviction?
Our 6th Listen and Learn Hour, on **Thursday, October 15, 2026, 12:30 - 1:30 pm**. will address **Eviction**.

An attorney from Legal Aid of Northwest Texas will lead these sessions.

To sign up or for more information, please contact:
lawlibrary@co.collin.tx.us
or Caroline Escamilla, Asst. Law Librarian/Pro Se Coordinator at:
cescamilla@co.collin.tx.us
214-491-4817

Reminders

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Payment Policy: **CASH only**
Copies and Forms:
$0.10/page, rounded down to the nearest dollar

Note: Computers automatically delete downloads at 4:50 PM

Library Closure



The Law Library will be closed on **Monday, September 7, 2026** for **Labor Day**

Pro Se Clinic

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas provides legal help for qualifying low-income people on **Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** in the **429th District Court**

Contact Info

Email: lawlibrary@co.collin.tx.us
Phone: **972-548-4255**
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Collin County Judges Who Have Served in the Military

As we celebrate America's 250th Birthday, we remember that freedom is never free. We don't take for granted those who have dedicated, sacrificed, and served our great nation. We recognize members of Collin County's Judiciary who served in the United States Armed Forces.

We had the privilege to ask a question to each of these judges who have served our County.

Judge John Roach Jr. (United States Marines 1988-1995):





How do you view the role of a judge in ensuring that service members or veterans receive specific resources they might need?

"Serving veterans is a priority for me. That's why I created the North Texas Veterans Court over 10 years ago which includes Collin, Rockwall, Grayson, Fannin and Kaufman counties. We have been able to assist 100s of justice-involved veterans. I also created the VALOR program which is a state-wide in-custody rehabilitation program for Texas veterans."

Judge Jay A. Bender (United States Naval Reserve):





What advice do you have for younger veterans or service members who are considering entering the legal profession?

"My advice is to take the work ethic you gained from the military and apply it to your education. Do well in school because your grades are very important."

These judges' service reflects a commitment to Collin County and a lasting promise to the United States of America.

Intelligent Use of Artificial Intelligence

Texas Law Help offers a good overview of the limitations and dangers of Artificial Intelligence and how to appropriately use it:

https://texaslawhelp.org/article/artificial-intelligence-as-a-legal-help-tool

The American Association of Law Libraries provides a guide for non-lawyers, Best Practices for Using AI in Legal Research:

https://www.aallnet.org/lispsis/resources-publications/ai-best-practices/

A recent article in The Texas Lawbook pulls three practical suggestions regarding AI use from a sanctions opinion of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit:

https://texaslawbook.net/fifth-circuit-sanctions-opinion-gives-practical-advice-for-ai-use/

Warnings Regarding AI Use in Legal Research

The American Association of Law Libraries offers helpful warnings about using AI in legal research:

AI cannot provide legal advice or represent you in court.
AI can generate convincing but incorrect information.
AI aims to please.
AI may not reflect current law.
Sensitive information should not be uploaded into AI.
The information AI gives you *always* needs to be verified.

STOP using AI and consult an attorney when:
... your legal situation is complex and requires professional human judgment.
... the stakes are high and involve your freedom, your children, or large amounts of money.
... AI's answers are confusing or inconsistent.
... you need someone to represent you in court.
... you can't verify the information AI is giving you.

Tips Regarding AI Use in Legal Research

The American Association of Law Libraries also offers tips for using AI in legal research:

AI can help with:

- Explaining concepts in simple language.
- Summarizing statutes, cases, or regulations.
- Reviewing and explaining documents.
- Understanding initial court procedures and dealines.

How to prompt AI effectively:

- Identify your jurisdiction (where you live or where the incident took place).
- Describe your role in the situation.
- Provide context.
- Include relevant dates.
- Tell the AI what you want it to produce for you.

Standing Orders Regarding Artificial Intelligence

Local Rules of Practice for Collin County District Courts
4.8 Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Court Filings:
All self-represented litigants and attorneys who utilize any form of artificial intelligence (such as ChatGPT, Harvey.AI, Google Bard, TensorFlow, OpenAI, Bing) for legal research or drafting in connection with a case shall, before using any AI-generated information in a court submission or proceeding, ensure that such information is accurate and correctly portrayed to the court.

Collin County Court at Law
Standing Order No.3. Use of Artificial Intelligence for Any Court Filing:
If any attorney for a party, or a self-represented party, has used AI in any way for the preparation of any filed document with the Court, the party MUST, in a clear and concise factual statement, disclose that AI was used in the preparation of the filing and CERTIFY that each and every citation to the law, or the record in the filed document, has been verified and is accurate. The Court reserves the right to rule as it sees fit on any failure to comply with this Standing Order, including but not limited to striking the non-compliant filing.

Copies of the complete Standing Orders for District Court and County Court may be obtained from the Law Library.

Passport Revocations Due to Significant Child Support Debt

On May 7, 2026, the U.S. State Department issued a press release stating that effective May 8, 2026, in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), it would step up enforcement of a 1996 law allowing the State Department to revoke a person's passport for unpaid child support. The press release states in part:

"Under the Trump Administration, the Department of State is coordinating with the Department of Health and Human Services on an unprecedented scale to revoke the passports of Americans who have racked up significant outstanding child support debt. This action supports the welfare of American children by exacting real consequences for child support delinquency under existing federal law.

Any American with significant child support debt should arrange payment to the relevant state or states now to prevent passport revocation. Once a passport is revoked, it may no longer be used for travel. Eligibility for a new passport will only be restored after child support debt is paid to the relevant state child support enforcement agency and the individual is no longer delinquent according to HHS records.

The State Department is putting American families first through our passport process."

Changes to Notary Law (effective September 2025)

Texas Senate Bill 693 creates a criminal offense related to notarizations and creates a continuing education requirement for new notaries public and current notaries public when renewing their commission.

1. Notarizing a document when a person is not personally present before the notary is a Class A Misdemeanor unless the document being notarized involves the transfer of real property, in which case the offense becomes a state jail felony.
2. The Texas Secretary of State (SOS) is required to create a continuing education program for notaries public. The education program is required to become a commissioned notary public, and the same course is required for current notaries when renewing their commission. SOS is allowed to charge a reasonable fee for the continuing education program.

New on the Shelf

O'Connor's Texas Family Code Plus 2026-2027
O'Connor's Federal Employment Codes Plus 2026-2027
Texas Practice Series Handbook on Texas Discovery Practice - The New Rules Governing Discovery 2026
O'Connor's Texas Civil Appeals 2026
James Publishing Texas DWI Manual Revision 12
James Publishing Social Security Disability Practice Volume 1 and 2 (2nd Edition)
O'Connor's Texas Civil Forms 2026
O'Connor's Texas Forms Real Estate Commercial & Residential 2026
O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action Pleadings 2026
State Bar of Texas Pattern Jury Charges Family & Probate
Federal Criminal Code and Rules 2026 - Thomson Reuters

Legal Humor

