

Suits Against Governmental Entities Research Guide

Overview

This research guide includes information and resources on suits against government entities. A governmental entity is a “public entity, such as a state government or one of its political subdivisions.” (*Black’s Law Dictionary, 11th ed.*) Related terms include sovereign immunity, qualified immunity, and tort claims. 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.

See also: Civil Rights and Discrimination Research Guide, Judicial Review of Administrative Action Research Guide

Statutes and Codes

Texas Statutes Online www.statutes.capitol.texas.gov

Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code

- §17.024 Service on Political Subdivision
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CP/htm/CP.17.htm#17.024>
- Ch. 74 Medical Liability
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/CP/htm/CP.74.htm>
- Title 5 Governmental Liability, Chs. 101-117
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/SDocs/CIVILPRACTICEANDREMEDIESCODE.pdf>

Texas Government Code

- Texas Administrative Procedures Act Ch. 2001 Administrative Procedure
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/GV/htm/GV.2001.htm>

Secondary Resources in Print

Dorsaneo’s Texas Litigation Guide REF KFT 1730 .T4

- Vol. 1, Ch. 12 Pleading the Parties
 - §12.03[6] Government Entities
 - §12.130 Governmental Units as Defendant
- Vol. 19, Ch. 293 Claims Against Governmental Entities

O’Connor’s Texas Causes of Action REF KFT 1733 .O26

- Ch. 24 Suits Against the Government

O’Connor’s Texas Causes of Action Pleadings REF KFT 1735 .A65 O36

- Ch. 24 Suits Against the Government

Texas Practice Series REF KFT 1280 .T4

- Vol. 35, County and Special District Law Ch. 2 Litigation
 - §2.2 Sovereign immunity of counties
 - §2.11 Texas Tort Claims Act

Texas Administrative Practice and Procedure KFT 1640 .B42

CLE Materials

Advanced Government Law Course KFT 1399 .G6

- 2021 Ch. 7 Qualified Immunity Update (*PDF only*)
- 2021 Ch. 10 Recent Federal Cases of Interest to Government Entities Update (*PDF only*)
- 2021 Ch. 16 Transgender Issues of Importance to Governmental Entities: Recent Developments (*PDF only*)

- 2018 Ch. 12 Governmental and Sovereign Immunity After Egelman Irrigation District and Wasson II

<https://www.justice.gov/jm/civil-resource-manual-44-service>

Government Law Boot Camp KFT 1631 .A75 G69

- 2016 Ch. 8 The Texas Tort Claims Act
- 2015 Ch. 3.1 Suing or Defending Government for Fun & Profit
- 2015 Ch. 3.2 Government Immunity Update
- 2015 Ch. 5 The Texas Tort Claims Act “The Chamber of Secrets”
- 2014 Ch. 6 Texas Tort Claims Act Basics

Suing and Defending Governmental Entities Course KFT 1399 .A75S7

- Years 2000-2012, 2014 available

Suing and Defending Governmental Entities Boot Camp KFT 1399 .A75SW73

- Years 2004-2009 available

Best Practices for Public Sector Lawyers KFT 1399 .G6S7

- 2010

Legal Assistance

Legal Lines – Ask Attorneys simple legal questions (free service)

- Tarrant County LegalLine Sign-up
<https://www.tarrantbar.org/>
- Dallas County LegalLine Sign-up
<https://www.dallasbar.org/index.cfm?pg=legalline>

Tarrant County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service: 817-336-4101 (\$20 for the first 30 minutes)

Online Resources

Suing Government Entity (Disability Rights Texas)
<https://disabilityrightstx.org/en/handout/suing-government-entity/>.

Making an Injury Claim under the Texas Tort Claims Act (NOLO) <https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/making-injury-claim-under-the-texas-tort-claims-act.html>.

An Overview of Government Immunity in Texas 2019 (UT Law CLE)
https://utcle.org/ecourses/OC7726/get-asset-file/asset_id/46882

Federal: Civil Resource Manual (USDOJ)

- 41. Venue – Government Officers and Agencies as Defendants
<https://www.justice.gov/jm/civil-resource-manual-41-venue-government-officers-and-agencies-defendants>
- 44. Service on Government Officers in Official Capacity, Agencies