



# Children's Commission.

## Jurist in Residence Letter:

### For Judges Handling Child Protective Services Cases

December 13, 2017

## Texas Child Protection Law Bench Book

The Children's Commission publishes a Texas Child Protection Law Bench Book (Bench Book) which outlines the state and federal statutory requirements for judges handling child protection cases, including topical sections and checklists. The Bench Book includes special issues which judges may encounter in overseeing child protection cases, as well as statutory and case law citations which are maintained by and connected to an online resource called LawBox.

The Bench Book is updated annually, and was recently revised to incorporate changes emanating from the 85th Texas Legislative Session. The 2017 revisions to the Bench Book include new information on Community Based Foster Care, Caregiver Assistance Agreements, new Bureau of Indian Affairs Guidelines regarding implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act, and new federal laws affecting educational outcomes of children in the child welfare system. Other revised content includes useful information which covers many CPS matters, including appeals, adoptions, disproportionality, education, STAR Health, and ICPC.

The online version of the Texas Child Protection Law Bench Book is available on the Children's Commission website at this link: <http://benchbook.texaschildrenscommission.gov/>. The Bench Book can be accessed by mobile phone users from this link as well; in that case, downloading the LawBox App first to access the Bench Book is suggested for easier viewing of its content.

If you are a Texas judge responsible for hearing CPS cases and you are interested in receiving a hardbound copy of the Texas Child Protection Law Bench Book, please contact the Children's Commission at [children@txcourts.gov](mailto:children@txcourts.gov).



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