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[www.TexasLegal.org](http://www.TexasLegal.org)

## Legal insurance can provide peace of mind: One Member's story

Legal insurance can provide peace of mind during trying times. Just ask Texas Legal member Jodie Erickson who used her legal insurance when her son was involved in a tragic accident two years ago. In addition to life-threatening injuries, Jodie's son was facing a legal charge.

"We were able to find an attorney within five minutes of our house thanks to Texas Legal. He took us through the legal process and was able to negotiate a better outcome, which allowed us to stay focused on my son's recovery," Jodie said. "If I didn't have legal insurance, it would have added another challenge at a very troubling and chaotic time in our lives."

Jodie's son made a miraculous recovery and is back at work and attending school. After his recovery, Jodie and her husband decided to start planning for the unexpected and used their legal insurance to put an advance directive and will into place. The accident reminded them that it's important to make sure they have planned ahead and have made their wishes known should something happen to either of them.

According to Jodie, "I had the opportunity to work directly with the staff at Texas Legal, and their professionalism and compassion were exemplary. They really listened, and I appreciated everyone who helped me work through the process."

"We hope this newsletter will provide you with important information to keep you up-to-date on your Texas Legal benefits. Our goal is to help prepare Texans for every stage in life and for you to take advantage of the full benefits your Texas Legal policy offers."

Jim Buck  
President, Texas Legal

## Estate planning and probate

There are many legal issues that arise later in life, and all Texans should seek legal advice now to protect their future. With Texas Legal, the estate planning benefit covers most of these issues, including:

- **Wills or trusts: A will or trust guarantees that your wishes will be carried out after your death. It's important to review these documents every three to five years when major life events occur, including retirement.**
- **Powers of attorney: In the event you fall ill or are incapacitated, certain powers of attorney guarantee that someone can act on your behalf for financial or health decisions.**
- **Advance directive to physician: This document allows you to make clear decisions about medical treatment in the future if you are unable to due to illness or injury.**
- **Additional documents (up to two): This includes declaration of guardianship, HIPPA release and/or disposition of remains.**

Texas Legal also covers four hours of probate, the legal process that takes place after someone dies. It includes proving that a person's will is legally valid and taking inventory of the property of the deceased. To make the most of this benefit, make sure your will as well as your parents' wills are valid and complete.

## Referring Family and Friends

Don't forget that Texas Legal is available to all Texans who are 18 years or older. Those who join can also add a spouse and dependents (up to the age of 26) to their plan.

Be sure to mention this to your family and friends before they have a legal issue that could cost them hundreds or even thousands of dollars in fees.



Texas Legal and its plans were founded by the State Bar of Texas.

**Life change ahead?**  
From addresses to dependents, Texas Legal makes it easy to update your plan.  
[Update My Info](#)

## Texas Legal Hotline

The Texas Legal Hotline can help point you in the right direction, so you can find the right legal representation. Through the hotline, a licensed attorney can answer simple questions such as:

- **What certain terms mean in a legal document**
- **Under what jurisdiction your case falls**
- **Where to file certain documents**
- **Where to get additional legal resources (e.g., local tenants council)**

The Texas Legal Hotline cannot provide specific legal advice. Once you receive more information from the hotline, you should know the next steps needed to obtain legal representation.

The toll-free number (**800-835-2255**) is available Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Make sure to have your Texas Legal membership ID number with you when you make the phone call.



## Contact Us

512-327-1372  
1-800-252-9346  
[members@texaslegal.org](mailto:members@texaslegal.org)

## Finding an attorney

Texas Legal offers a network of attorneys across the state, allowing members to choose an attorney of their choice. Through the online **Attorney Finder** members can search for participating attorneys that meet after hours, are willing to travel, available on weekends, LGBT friendly, and have wheelchair-accessible facilities, as well as visually impaired and/or hearing-impaired accommodations. Members can also search for attorneys who speak specific languages or are licensed in other states.

Texas Legal is not a referral service and cannot recommend any particular attorney. Those services are highly regulated in Texas, which prohibits Texas Legal from recommending a lawyer over the phone or through email. However, the Texas Legal member services team is always available to discuss how the attorney finder works and can point you to the areas of law that could pertain to your case.