



Supporting Fathers in Texas

The state of Texas recognizes the important role that fathers play in the lives of their children and families. Father involvement is linked to better outcomes on nearly every measure of child wellbeing, from cognitive and emotional development and academic success, to reduced delinquency and improved mental health.

Texas also understands that fathers' needs are often distinct from those of mothers and other family members. Father-specific supports in Texas include an array of services designed to increase fathers' economic self-sufficiency and improve their parenting knowledge and skills.



How Texas agencies are supporting fathers through policies, programs, and services



Future, Expectant, and New Parents

- **Office of the Attorney General (OAG)**
 - Parenting and Paternity Awareness (p.a.p.a.) is a curriculum teaching the realities of parenting for public middle and high schools, including Texas Juvenile Justice Department state-operated facilities
- **Department of State Health Services**
 - Healthy Texas Babies provides data on variables including infant mortality, prematurity, and low birth weight
- **Department of Family and Protective Services Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI)**
 - Texas Home Visiting provides convenient support by matching parents with home visitors
- **The University of Texas Population Health**
 - The Texas Safe Babies project evaluates hospital and clinic-based interventions designed to prevent maltreatment in a baby's first year

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Support Throughout the Child's Life

- **Texas Child Protective Services**
 - The Responsible Fathering Initiative provides supports and services to help men be involved fathers
- **Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)**
 - TWC offers childcare assistance to low-income families through subsidies
- **Texas Education Agency**
 - Start Smart Texas promotes parent involvement in their child's early literacy and reading skills
- **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**
 - Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) is a family literacy program focused on fathers
- **PEI**
 - Fatherhood EFFECT responsible fatherhood programs provide parent education and resources
 - Military Families and Veteran Pilot Prevention Program provides parenting, education, counseling, and support services
 - Help through Intervention and Prevention (HIP) provides family assessment, home visitation, and basic needs support
 - Healthy Outcomes through Prevention and Supports (HOPES) provides child abuse and neglect prevention
- **Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)**
 - Partners with local organizations to provide parenting and coparenting programs to incarcerated parents at select sites
 - Holds annual Family Days for offenders to visit relatives



Child Support and Custody

- **OAG**
 - Access and Visitation phone hotline and online resource directory helps noncustodial parents maintain relationships with their children
- **OAG and TDCJ**
 - Assist incarcerated noncustodial parents modify child support orders
- **OAG and TWC**
 - The Non-Custodial Parent (NCP) Choices Program supports low-income or under/unemployed noncustodial parents

FACTS ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT IN TEXAS

- Unmarried parents can voluntarily establish paternity at the child's birth in the hospital or by going to their local child support office
- State law presumes joint managing conservatorship
- Application for public benefits by custodial parent automatically opens child support case
- All child support orders are accompanied by parenting time plan

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