

Law Clerk Program



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS
CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION

Introduction

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) - Child Support Division's Law Clerk Program introduces qualified second-year law students from Texas law schools to rewarding and diverse legal work. Law clerks are provided the opportunity to work under the direct supervision of Assistant Attorneys General (AAGs). The Child Support Division offers clerkships for six to twelve weeks during the summer. During the summer clerkship, law clerks have the opportunity to assist in providing legal services to local communities throughout the state. As a member of the Child Support Division, law clerks join one of the most successful child support programs in the country and a team of dedicated public servants.

Our Mission

To encourage responsible parenting by promoting the involvement of both parents and ensuring that children receive the support they **need** and **deserve**.

Our Values

Every day, we aim to meet the standards of our core values:

R ESPECT

for ourselves, for those we serve, with whom we work, and with whom we partner.

I NNOVATION

leveraging our creativity, passion, and technology to transform and elevate our program and the way we fulfill our mission.

S ERVICE

selfless dedication to our mission and to those we serve, demonstrated by our stewardship of the resources entrusted to us and the integrity with which we approach our work.

E XCELLENCE

in our performance, in the professional manner in which we provide services, the attitude we bring, the knowledge we obtain and the relationships we build.

Our Work



The Child Support Division (CSD) is the largest division within the OAG and has over 70 field and regional offices around the state to serve the public. In accordance with state and federal law, the OAG is responsible for the establishment and enforcement of child support. The OAG represents the state and cannot represent individuals involved in child support claims. The agency's Child Support Division has a responsibility to assist parents in obtaining the financial support necessary for children to grow up and succeed in life. To encourage parental responsibility and support Texas families, the Child Support Division:

- **establishes paternity for children;**
- **obtains court orders for financial, medical and dental support of children;**
- **enforces child support orders;**
- **promotes the emotional involvement of both parents;**
- **collaborates with state agencies and community organizations to serve families.**



As a member of the legal team, a summer law clerk can expect to work closely with AAGs on a wide variety of legal tasks. For example, AAGs regularly:

- **attend Title IV-D dockets and district court settings;**
- **conduct hearings;**
- **negotiate with parties;**
- **prepare substantive and procedural legal analysis for court cases;**
- **draft court orders;**
- **review and approve lawsuits;**
- **respond to private attorney legal inquiries;**
- **provide legal counsel to non-attorney OAG staff;**
- **research unique or complex legal issues related to family law;**
- **draft responsive pleadings.**

CSD: At a Glance

The Child Support Division of the Office of the Attorney General provides child support services and participates in legal actions in all two-hundred and fifty-four (254) counties in the State of Texas.

1,500,000



Statewide Caseload

More than 1.5 million cases



\$4,891,335,750

Child Support Collections

\$4,891,335,750 distributed to families in fiscal year 2020

\$510,999,286



Medical Support Collections

\$510,999,286 distributed to families in fiscal year 2020



16,512

Paternity Established

16,512 determinations of paternity obtained in fiscal year 2020

35,768



New Obligations Established

35,768 new obligations obtained in fiscal year 2020



300

Full-time AAGs

Approximately 300 AAGs statewide practicing family, administrative, and appellate law

Field Office Locations

Abilene
Amarillo
Austin
Beaumont
Brownsville
Bryan
Conroe
Corpus Christi
Dallas
El Paso
Fort Worth
Harlingen

Houston
Jourdanton
La Marque
Laredo
Longview
Lubbock
Nacogdoches
Nederland
Odessa
Paris
Pflugerville

Pharr
Rosenburg
San Angelo
San Antonio
Temple
Texarkana
Tyler
Uvalde
Victoria
Waco
Wichita Falls

Title IV-D and Child Support

What is Title IV-D

The Social Security Act of 1975 contains Title IV-D – a federal law that, in part, requires every state to manage a child support enforcement program. To help fund these programs, the federal government provides money to each state. These funds help cover the operational costs involved in child support enforcement – including establishing orders, enforcement efforts and tracking and reporting.

The Office of the Attorney General is the official “Title IV-D agency” in Texas. Our purpose is to help ensure that children receive the support they need and deserve.

Why Title IV-D Matters

Despite its official-sounding name, Title IV-D simply refers to the federal law that requires states to manage a public child support program. This is important because many parents do not have an attorney to help them with child support matters or know how to establish or enforce a court order on their own.

Title IV-D allows the state of Texas to help these families by:



- Establishing Paternity
- Collecting child support
- Modifying a child support obligation
- Establishing child, medical and dental support orders

What Prior Participants Had To Say

"The team that I was fortunate enough to work with was so helpful and allowed me to help with real work. I learned so much!"

"My favorite experience was getting to attend docket with the AAGs. I really enjoyed getting to watch how everything works, and learned a lot!"

"My favorite experiences were getting to watch the AAGs work and talking to them after they had dealt with customers to better understand their responsibilities and methods."

"My favorite experience was the access I had to all the employees. They made me feel comfortable reaching out for help, and they guided me through my tasks."

"I believe that I got the most out of my research project. I was able to internalize the law and think critically about how it affected an international case. Complex cases like the case I researched, got me excited about child support laws and procedures."

"Day-to-day job was very practical."

"All of the AAGs that I got to work with were extremely helpful, and always answered any questions that I had."

"I absolutely loved the team I worked with. The AAGs were incredibly nice and helpful!!"

"I also would like to brag on the team that I was fortunate enough to work with. I think that is what helped make the internship go so well, having a designated person to reach out to for questions and assignments. My mentor taught me so much and I am so appreciative that she actually allowed me to help do real work! This was the most beneficial clerkship that I have had, and that is thanks to them! The entire team was so great and always super helpful when I had questions."

