



# LAWS AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO SECURE AND PROTECT HOUSES OF WORSHIP

## STATE \_\_\_\_\_

### **Constitutional Right (TEX. CONST. art. I, § 23):**

"Every citizen shall have the right to keep and bear arms in the lawful defense of himself or the State; but the Legislature shall have power, by law, to regulate the wearing of arms, with a view to prevent crime."

### **License to Carry a Handgun (TEX. GOV'T CODE §§ 411.171–.209)**

Requires the state to issue licenses to eligible persons to carry a handgun on premises not owned or controlled by the person

### **Trespass by License Holder (TEX. PENAL CODE §§ 30.06–.07)**

Allows certain private property owners to exclude from their property persons licensed to carry a handgun upon providing effective notice

### **S.B. 535, 86th Leg., R.S., 2019**

(codified at TEX. PENAL CODE § 46.035)

Clarified the law concerning the carrying of a handgun on the premises of a house of worship by a person licensed to carry a handgun

<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/86R/billtext/pdf/SB00535F.pdf#navpanes=0>

### **S.B. 2065, 85th Leg., R.S., 2017, § 11.001**

(codified at TEX. OCC. CODE § 1702.333)

Exempts a person from registration or licensing requirements of the Private Security Program to provide volunteer security services on the premises of houses of worship

<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/85R/billtext/pdf/SB02065F.pdf#navpanes=0>

### **Governor's Texas Safety Action Report**

[https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/Texas\\_Safety\\_Action\\_Report.pdf](https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/Texas_Safety_Action_Report.pdf)

### **Governor's School and Firearm Safety Action Plan**

[https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/School\\_Safety\\_Action\\_Plan\\_05302018.pdf](https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/School_Safety_Action_Plan_05302018.pdf)

### **Lieutenant Governor's Letter Requesting Attorney General Opinion on Church Security**

[https://www.ltgov.state.tx.us/wp-content/uploads/docs/DP\\_OAG\\_Opinion\\_Church\\_Security\\_12-1-17.pdf](https://www.ltgov.state.tx.us/wp-content/uploads/docs/DP_OAG_Opinion_Church_Security_12-1-17.pdf)

### **Attorney General's Opinion on Church Security**

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/sites/default/files/opinion-files/opinion/2017/kp0176.pdf>

### **Attorney General's School Safety Resources**

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/divisions/criminal-justice/gangs-juvenile-justice/school-safety>

### **TDEM's Preparing Texas Training Courses**

*E.g.:*

- ◆ Countering Violent Extremist Narratives (<https://www.preparingtexas.org/ViewCourse.aspx?courseid=f0d3bc15-fc12-4d6d-af1f-3956823b52ce>)
- ◆ Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (<https://www.preparingtexas.org/ViewCourse.aspx?courseid=7a1c0525-3ceb-440d-aa6b-4730c35a1768>)





### Texas Baptists' Safety & Security Resources

<https://texasbaptists.s3.amazonaws.com/church-administration/Info%20Sheet%20-%20Safety%20and%20Security%20Resources.pdf>

## FEDERAL

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### FEMA Resources to Protect Houses of Worship

<https://www.fema.gov/faith-resources>

### FEMA Webinar to Protect Houses of Worship

<https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/p7uetgek4vil/>

### DHS Hometown Security Initiative

<https://www.cisa.gov/hometown-security>

### DHS Security of Soft Targets and Crowded Places— Resource Guide (April 2019)

[https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19\\_0424\\_cisa\\_soft-targets-and-crowded-places-resource-guide.pdf](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19_0424_cisa_soft-targets-and-crowded-places-resource-guide.pdf)

### DHS Houses of Worship Hometown Security Report Series (May 2017)

[https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19\\_0603\\_cisa\\_hsrh-houses-of-worship-pscd.pdf](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19_0603_cisa_hsrh-houses-of-worship-pscd.pdf)

### DHS Grant Funding Opportunities

Provides funding support opportunities for target-hardening and other physical security enhancements and activities to eligible nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack and which are located within the geographic footprint of an urban area designated as an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) jurisdiction under DHS's UASI Grant Program

### DHS Protective Security Advisors

- ◆ <https://www.cisa.gov/protective-security-advisors>
- ◆ The PSA Program's primary mission is to proactively engage with federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government mission partners and members of the private sector stakeholder community to protect critical infrastructure.

### DHS's Connect, Plan, Train, Report Steps

<https://www.cisa.gov/connect-plan-train-report>

### FBI Active Shooter Situation Resources

<https://www.fbi.gov/about/partnerships/office-of-partner-engagement/active-shooter-resources>

### Ready.gov Resources

<https://www.ready.gov>

