

(https://texaslawhelp.org/toolkit/sapcr-i-need-custody-order-i-am-not-chil...)



(/)

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CUSTODY-ORDER-I-AM-
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(SAPCR) I need a custody order. I am not the child's parent.

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This toolkit tells you how to ask for a custody, visitation, child support and medical support or if (1) you are a grandparent or other nonparent and (2) there are no existing court orders about the child. FORMS ARE INCLUDED.

This toolkit includes:

- **Instructions & Forms** you can use to file a custody case called a “Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship” (SAPCR for short) as long as you meet legal requirements. [Click here to chat.](#)

HIDE MY USES The **first** set of instructions if everyone agrees.

- Use the **second** set of instructions if you don't think the child's parents will participate the process.
- **Frequently Asked Questions** about filing a nonparent custody case.
- **Articles** on topics related to custody, visitation, child support and medical support.

Do NOT use this toolkit if:

- **There is already a court order about the child** (not including a family violence protective order). If there is already a court order about the child (such as an Attorney General Child Support Order), use this toolkit instead: **I need to change a custody, visitation or support order.** (<https://texaslawhelp.org/family-divorce-children/child-custody-visitation/toolkit-i-need-change-modify-custody-visitation-or-child-support-order>)

Note: If there is a family violence protective order, you CAN use this toolkit as long as you meet the other requirements. You must attach a copy of the protective order to your Petition. If you were the victim of family violence, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) before filing a SAPCR case. You may qualify for free legal help.

- Do not use the agreed nonparent SAPCR forms if the case is, or is likely to be, **contested**. If you are not sure, read **Is my SAPCR contested or uncontested?** (<https://texaslawhelp.org/faq/my-sapcr-contested-or-uncontested>)

Other Options:

- **Ask the Parent to Sign an Authorization Agreement** – Under certain circumstances, a parent (or both parents) may sign an Authorization Agreement for Nonparent Relative or Voluntary Caregiver form to authorize a relative or voluntary caregiver to care for and make decisions for a child. Unlike a custody order, a nonparent authorization agreement can be revoked (taken back) by the parent at any time. Get more information and the form here: **Authorization for Nonparent Care of a Child** (<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/nonparent-authorization-agreement>).
- **Get help from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG)** – Although the OAG cannot represent you, the OAG may be able to help you get a custody order. For information about opening a case with the OAG, call 1-800-252-8014 or go to its website at www.oag.state.tx.us/cs (<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/cs>).

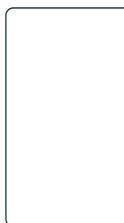
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Need Help?

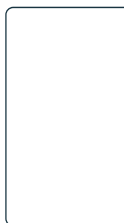
- Use **Legal Help Finder** (<https://texaslawhelp.org/legal-help/legal-help-finder>) to search for lawyer referral service, legal aid office or self-help center in your area.
- Check our **Legal Clinic Calendar** (<news://node/481>) to learn if there is an upcoming legal clinic near you.
- Use **Ask a Question** (<https://texaslawhelp.org/ask-question>) to chat online with a lawyer or law student.

WARNING! The information and forms in this toolkit are not legal advice and are not a substitute for the help of a lawyer. It's a good idea to talk with a lawyer about your particular situation.

Instructions & Forms



Instructions & Forms for an Agreed SAPCR (filed by a nonparent) (/checklist/instructions-forms-agreed-sapcr-filed-nonparent)



Instructions & Forms for a Default SAPCR (filed by a nonparent) (/checklist/instructions-forms-default-sapcr-filed-nonparent)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q&A Bank for Grandparents & Other Nonparent Caregivers (/texas-legal-faq-listing?term=741)

Q&A Bank for Family, Divorce & Children (/texas-legal-faq-listing?term=733)

Q&A Bank for Child Custody & Visitation (/texas-legal-faq-listing?term=735)

Forms

Articles

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Petition in Suit
Affecting the Parent-
Child Relationship
[SAPCR] (/form
/petition-suit-affecting-
parent-child-
relationship-sapcr)

 Download (/file

/1557/download?token=6sclwB5f) (145.18
KB)

Exhibit: Out-of-State
Party Declaration (/form
/exhibit-out-state-
party-declaration)

 Download (/file

/952/download?token=mXvyukU8) (51.83
KB)

Information on Suit
Affecting the Family
Relationship (Excluding
Adoptions) (/form
/information-suit-
affecting-family-
relationship-excluding-
adoptions)

 Download (/file

/1216/download?token=8LF96pHw) (851.84
KB)

Changing Your Address
or Employment
Information
(https://texaslawhelp.o
/article/changing-your
address-or-
employment-
information)

Child Custody &
Conservatorship
(https://texaslawhelp.o
/article/child-custody-
conservatorship)

Child Support, Medical
Support, and Dental
Support
(https://texaslawhelp.o
/article/child-support-
medical-support-and-
dental-support)

Child Visitation &
Possession Orders
(https://texaslawhelp.o
/article/child-visitation
possession-orders)

Court Fees & Fee
Waivers
(https://texaslawhelp.o
/article/court-fees-fee-
waivers)

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Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs (/form/statement-inability-afford-payment-court-costs)



[Download \(/file](#)

[/130/download?token=pZC2aeSA\)](#) (68.77

KB)

[Español \(/es/form/declaraci%C3%B3n-sobre-n capacidad-de-pagar-las-costas-del-tribunal\)](#)

Respondent's Original Answer [SAPCR] (/form/respondents-original-answer-sapcr)



[Download \(/file](#)

[/1405/download?token=B2wuNgGB\)](#) (30.93

KB)

Waiver of Service Only (Specific Waiver) [SAPCR] (/form/waiver-service-only-specific-waiver-sapcr)



[Download \(/file](#)

[/756/download?token=Fe2Tpis8\)](#) (40.52 KB)

Order in Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship

waivers)

Texas Family Law Handbook (Houston Bar Association) (<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/texas-family-law-handbook-houston-bar-association>)


How to Dismiss a Case You Filed (<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/how-dismiss-case-you-filed>)


How to Set an Uncontested Final Hearing (Family Law) (<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/how-set-uncontested-final-hearing-family-law>)


How to Set a Contested Final Hearing (Family Law) (<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/how-set-contested-final-hearing-family-law>)


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HIDE MY VIEW (Nonparent Custody Order) [SAPCR] with MPO (/form/order-suit-affecting-parent-child-relationship-nonparent-custody-order-sapcr-with-mpo)


 Download (/file /2017/download?token=Zl7xg3zs) (223.2 KB)


 Income Withholding for Support (/form/income-withholding-support)


 Download (/file /179/download?token=nLPHluKF) (572.32 KB)


 Certificate of Last Known Mailing Address (/form/certificate-last-known-mailing-address)

 Download (/file /2434/download?token=DSdhi2UG) (192.63 KB)

 Military Status Declaration (/form/military-status-declaration)


 Temporary Orders & Temporary Restraining Orders (TROs) (https://texaslawhelp.org/article/temporary-orders-temporary-restraining-orders-tros)

 Texas KinCare Primer (https://texaslawhelp.org/article/texas-kin-care-primer)

 Tips for the Courtroom (https://texaslawhelp.org/article/tips-courtroom)

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 Download (/file

/2411/download?token=mLEl7uJn) (352.82

KB)

Guided Forms

Fee Waiver (Statement of Inability to Afford Payment of Court Costs) - Guided Form (/guided-form/fee-waiver-statement-inability-afford-payment-court-costs-guided-form)

Guided Form - Click Here (https://selfhelp.efiletexas.gov/SRL/SRL/Start?legalProcessKey=Statement_of_Inability_to_Afford_Payment_of_Court_Costs)

Read more (/guided-form/fee-waiver-statement-inability-afford-payment-court-costs-guided-form)

Out-of-State Party Declaration - Guided Form (/guided-form/out-state-party-declaration-guided-form)

Guided Form - Click Here (https://selfhelp.efiletexas.gov/SRL/SRL/Start?legalProcessKey=Out_of_State_Party_Declaration)

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[Read more about the guided-form/out-state-party-declaration-guided-form\)](#)



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(<https://texaslawhelp.org/node/192>)

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(<https://texaslawhelp.org/court-information>)

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(<https://texaslawhelp.org/node/758>)

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(<https://tlsc.kindful.com/>)

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(<https://texaslawhelp.org/tell-us-what-you-think>)

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(<https://texaslawhelp.org/events>)

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(<https://texaslawhelp.org/texaslawhelp-outreach-materials-order-form>)

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HIDE MY VISIT provided funding for website design.

For more useful information go to **TexasCourtHelp** (<http://www.texascourthelp.org/>), a website of the Texas Office of Court Administration's website.

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