

## Texas Courts and Their Records

<b>Court / Office</b>	<b>Main Responsibilities</b>	<b>Genealogical Records You'll Find</b>
<b>County Clerk</b> (in every county)	Official recorder of deeds, liens, mortgages; maintains vital & some probate records	<b>Deeds, land transactions, mortgages, releases, oil &amp; gas leases, marriage licenses, birth/death records</b>
<b>Constitutional County Court</b> (all counties)	Judge handles probate, guardianship, small civil/criminal cases, appeals from JP	<b>Probate files, wills, guardianships, estate inventories, annual returns</b>
<b>Statutory Probate Courts</b> (large counties, incl. Dallas)	Specialized probate courts created by legislature	<b>Complex estates, guardianships, mental health commitments</b>
<b>District Courts</b>	General jurisdiction trial courts (often multi-county)	<b>Divorces, land &amp; property disputes, civil lawsuits, felony criminal cases, name changes</b>
<b>Justice of the Peace (JP) Courts</b>	Local precinct courts; "people's court"	<b>Small claims, evictions, coroner inquests, minor misdemeanors</b>
<b>Municipal Courts</b>	City-level; ordinance violations	<b>Traffic, city ordinance violations, minor licensing cases (less genealogical use)</b>