

LGBTQ+ Resource Guide

From the Harris County Robert W.
Hainsworth Law Library



Promoting open and equal access to justice for all.

Table of Contents

1.	About the Law Library	2
2.	Law Library Resources	3-7
3.	Further Legal Research	8
4.	Legal Aid Organizations	9-10
5.	Name & Gender Marker Change	11-15
6.	Civil Rights	16-17
7.	Estate Planning	18-19
8.	Employment	20-21
9.	Family Law	22-23
10.	Housing	24-25
11.	Healthcare	26-27
12.	Hotlines	28

About the Law Library

A free, public law library.

Reference librarians are ready and available to assist you anytime we are open.

14 public computers are available for patrons and reserved for legal work and research.

The computers include free legal databases, Internet access, MS Word, and more.

We provide print, copy, and scan services for 10 cents per page, cash only.

Faxing is also available, both sending and receiving.

This is \$1 a page for local and long distance faxes.

We also provide free WiFi, free notary services (with valid ID), and free training in research and legal tech.

**Open 8am-5pm, Monday-Friday
(except major holidays)**

1019 Congress Street, 1st Floor, Houston, TX 77002

(713) 755-5183

harriscountylawlibrary.org

**The content of this handbook is for informational purposes only.
It is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney.**

Print Resources at the Law Library

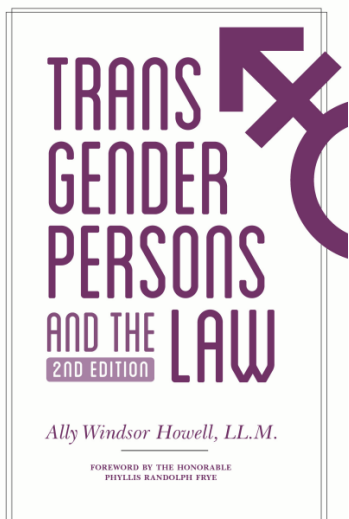
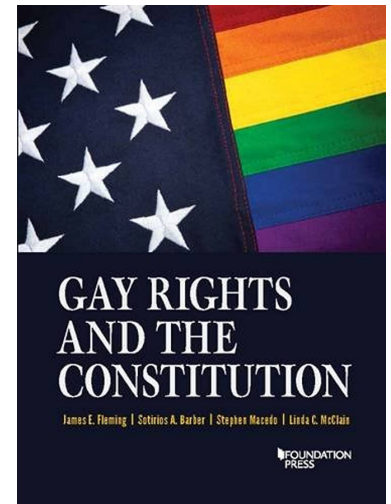
Employment Discrimination Law
Barbara Lindemann, et al., ABA, 2012

Gay Rights and the Constitution
James E. Fleming, Foundation
Press, 2016.

Sexual Orientation and Identity
Shannon Gilreath, West, 2016

Sexual Orientation and the Law
Karen Moulding and the National Lawyers Guild
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Rights Committee, West, 2012

**Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and the Law in
a Nutshell**
Ruth Colker, West, 2022



Transgender Persons and The Law
Ally Windsor Howell, ABA, 2015

Texas Practice Guide: Family Law
Kathryn J. Murphy, et. al., West, 2023-
2024

Images from Amazon.

Print Resources at the Law Library

Estate Planning for Same-Sex Couples

Joan Burda, ABA, 2015

Texas Estate Planning

Kenneth McLaughlin, Jr.,
Matthew Bender, 2023

Texas Probate, Estate and Trust Administration

Kenneth McLaughlin, Jr.,
Matthew Bender, 2019

A Legal Guide for Lesbian & Gay Couples

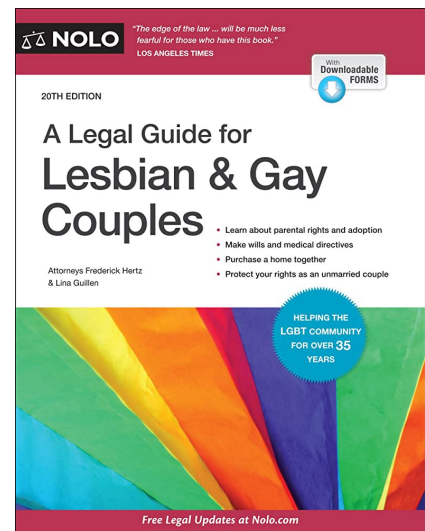
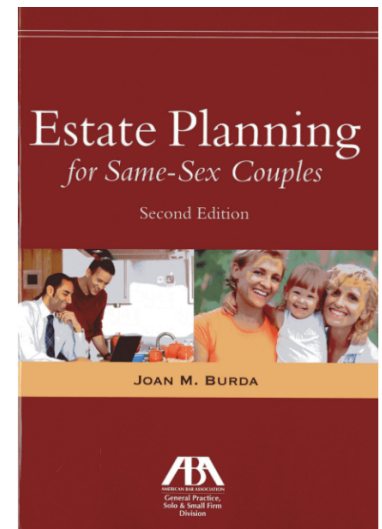
Frederick Hertz and Lina Guillen,
Nolo, 2020

Making it Legal: A Guide to Same-Sex Marriage, Domestic Partnerships & Civil Unions

Frederick Hertz and Emily Duskow, Nolo, 2018

Texas Practice Series: Handbook of Texas Family Law: A Quick Reference Guide to the Family Code (Vol. 33)

John F. Elder, West, 2022-2023



Images from Amazon.

E-books at the Law Library

The Employer's Legal Handbook

Fred S. Steingold and Aaron Hotfelder, Nolo, 2021
(Ch. 8, Illegal Discrimination)

A Legal Guide for Lesbian & Gay Couples

Frederick Hertz and Lina Guilen, Nolo, 2020

Making it Legal: A Guide to Same-Sex Marriage, Domestic Partnerships & Civil Unions

Frederick Hertz and Emily Doskow, Nolo, 2018

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Family Law

Courtney G. Joslin, Shannon P. Minter, and Catherine Sakimura, West, 2022 (only available at the library)

**SIGN UP FOR AN EBOOK ACCOUNT
AT
[HARRISCOUNTYLAWLIBRARY.ORG/
DIGITALCOLLECTIONSIGNUP/](https://harriscountylawlibrary.org/digitalcollections/signup/)**

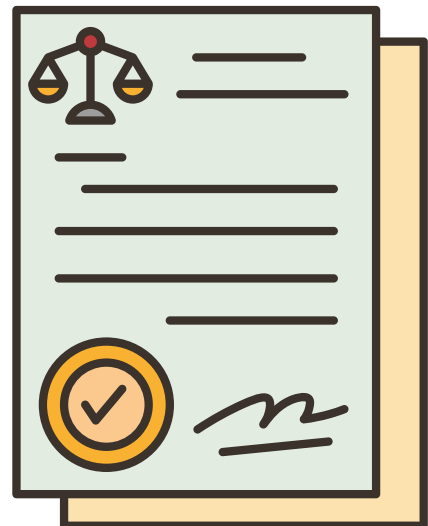


Texas Statutes

- Family Code Ch. 45: Change of Name
- Health and Safety Code Sec. 191.028: Amendment of Certificate
- Health and Safety Code Sec. 191.011: Amending a Birth Certificate

Federal Statutes

- 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e to 2000e-17: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.
- H.R. 8404: Respect for Marriage Act.



Law Journals

Dukeminier Awards: Best Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law Review

UCLA School of Law, Full-text coverage through HeinOnline: 2002-2021

Harvard Civil Rights: Civil Liberties Law Review

Harvard Law School, Full-text coverage through HeinOnline: 1996-2023; Full-text coverage through Westlaw: 1987-2023

Harvard Journal of Law & Gender

Harvard Law School, Full-text coverage through HeinOnline: 1978-2023

Tulane Journal of Law & Sexuality

Tulane University School of Law, Full-text coverage through HeinOnline: 1991-2023; Full-text coverage through Westlaw: 1993-2023

William & Mary Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice

William & Mary Law School, Full-text coverage through HeinOnline: 1994-2023

Further Legal Research

The law is constantly changing. Use the following resources to research updates at the state and federal level.

Search current and previous legislation of the U.S. Congress online at [congress.gov/legislation/](https://www.congress.gov/legislation/). Track Texas legislative updates by using the **Legislative Bill Tracker from Equality Texas** (equalitytexas.org/legislature/legislative-bill-tracker-2023/). The Legislative Reference Library (lrl.texas.gov) provides resources on how to research bills and updates from the Texas Legislature.

Research Supreme Court Cases with legal databases available to access for free at the Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library. Search Westlaw or Lexis and find contextual information such as case summaries written by attorneys or use built-in tools to Shephardize/Keycite and view other cases that have cited the case you are looking at specifically.

Opinions of the U.S. Supreme Court are accessible for free online at [supremecourt.gov](https://www.supremecourt.gov). [Oyez.com](https://www.oyez.com) summarizes the facts, opinions, and dissents of U.S. Supreme Court cases and provides recordings of oral arguments. Opinions of the Texas Supreme Court are accessible for free online at txcourts.gov/supreme/.

Do you have a legal question?



**CONTACT A
LEGAL AID
ORGANIZATION TO
SPEAK TO AN
ATTORNEY.**

ACLU Texas

aclutx.org/en/request-legal-assistance/

Provides free civil legal help for low-income families and individuals in Texas. Hosts special events and legal clinics that address the legal needs of LGBTQ individuals.

Lambda Legal

lambdalegal.org/states-regions/texas/

Provides legal representation for the LGBTQ+ community and people living with HIV.

Lone Star Legal Aid

713-228-0735

lonestarlegal.org

Provides free civil legal help for low-income families and individuals in Texas. Hosts workshops and legal clinics that address the legal needs of LGBTQ+ individuals.

Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston (SLAGH)

slaghlaw.org

Hosts continuing legal education and other events on legal topics relevant to the Houston LGBTQ community.

Texas Trans Kids

txtranskids.org

Provides resources, legal updates, and legal assistance for young trans Texans and their families.

Organización Latina Trans in Texas

latinatranstexas.org/services/

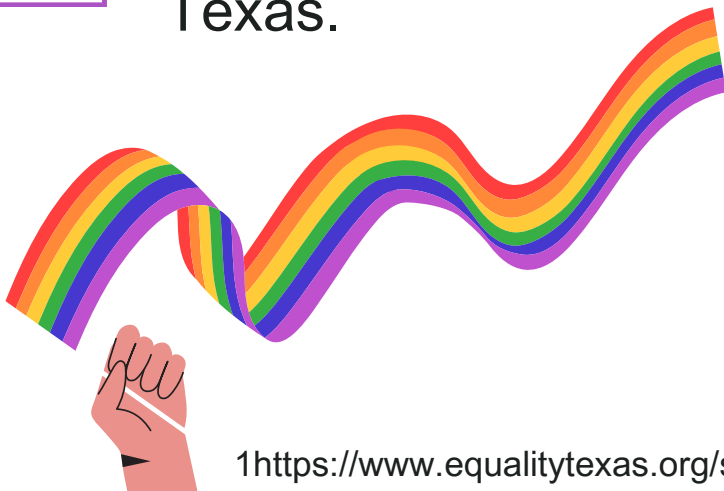
Connects trans Texans with legal assistance, gender-affirming care, housing, and other aid.



Do you want to change your name and/or gender marker?

Every state has a different procedure for changing your name and/or gender marker on state-issued legal documents such as your birth certificate or drivers license.

In Texas, changing your name or gender marker generally requires a **court order**. While in most counties changing your name is a relatively straight forward process, there are a limited number of judges in Texas who will grant a gender marker change by court order: 3 out of 254 counties have a history of approving gender marker changes.¹ Currently, Travis County offers the most streamlined process for changing a gender marker by court order. You may file electronically in Travis County even if you live elsewhere in Texas.²



¹<https://www.equalitytexas.org/streamlining-identity-document-changes/>

²<https://transequality.org/documents/state/texas/>

Who can help me change my name or gender marker?

APPLY FOR FREE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ALL TEXANS

Transgender Support Services: The Montrose Center

montrosecenter.org/services/gender-services/transgender/
713-529-0037

401 Branard Street, Houston, TX 77006
The Montrose Center in Houston hosts the Trans Legal Aid Clinic Texas in-person on the third Saturday of each month. Registration is required.

Gender Affirmation Project: University of Texas School of Law

law.utexas.edu/probono/for-the-public/pro-bono-projects/gap/

Applicant intake survey:
<https://www.bit.ly/UTLawGAP2021/>
Free legal assistance for obtaining name and/or gender marker changes.

Trans Legal Aid Clinic Texas

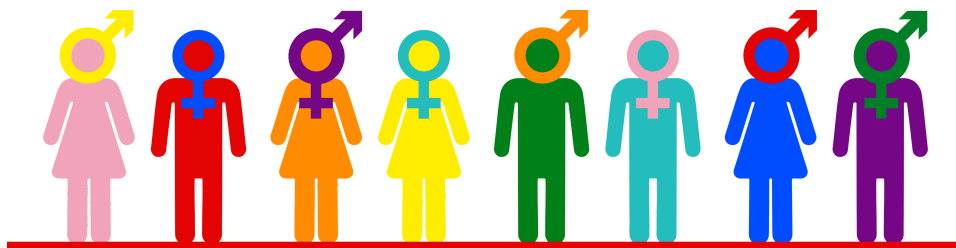
translegalaidtx.com/clinic-schedule/
Connects Texans who need to change their name and/or gender marker on legal documents with volunteer attorneys.

NEED FINANCIAL HELP? APPLY FOR A GRANT!

Microgrants: Trans Lifeline

translifeline.org/microgrants

Offers grant funds and other financial support to trans people. Microgrant programs include the Name Change Microgrant, for those applying for court-ordered name changes, and the Commissary and Post-Release Microgrants, for incarcerated or recently released trans people.



Learn more about changing your name and gender marker in Texas with these online resources.

Texas Name and Gender Marker Change Guide

texaslawhelp.org/guide/texas-name-and-gender-marker-change-guide/

Texas ID Documents Center

transequality.org/documents/state/texas/

Streamlining Identity Document Changes

equalitytexas.org/streamlining-identity-document-changes/

ID Change Library: TransLifeine

translifeline.org/resource/id-change-library/

Updating Military Records: Name and Gender Marker Changes

texaslawhelp.org/article/updating-military-records-name-and-gender-marker-changes/

Name Changes and Criminal History

texaslawhelp.org/article/name-changes-and-criminal-history/

These guides are available to view and download online for free.

FORMS

When drafting legal forms, it is always best to consult an attorney.

Filing legal forms with the court is the first step in changing your name or gender marker. A **petition** will start your request with the court. An **order** is what the judge will sign to grant or deny your request. In addition to a petition and order, you will need additional documents, depending on your county and judge.



Step 1:
Fill out your forms and gather additional documents.



Step 2:
Get your fingerprints taken.



Step 3:
Mail your forms, documents, and fingerprint card to the court clerk.



Step 4:
Get certified copies of the judge's order.

What other documents will I need?

You will also need a letter from a mental health professional and/or a medical doctor for a gender marker change. This letter should include:

- that the professional has examined you,
- your diagnosis; and
- that granting a change of gender/sex marker is in your best interest.

Where can I find forms for changing my name and gender marker?

These forms are available to view and download online for free.

Identity Documents: Trans Pride Initiative

tpride.org/resources.php#identityDocuments/

Examples of general forms to request a name and gender marker change by court order.

Adult Gender Identifier and Name Change Kit: Travis County Law Library

lawlibrary.traviscountytexas.gov

See forms and kits for changing a name and/or gender marker under the "Other" category.

Minor and Adult Name Change: Texas Law Help

texaslawhelp.org/family-divorce-children/name-change/

Forms and instructions for changing your name in Texas.



What are my rights?

Know Your Rights: Lambda Legal Legacy

<https://legacy.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/>

Learn about your rights against discrimination in the workplace, in court, at school, and when obtaining healthcare.

Equality Texas

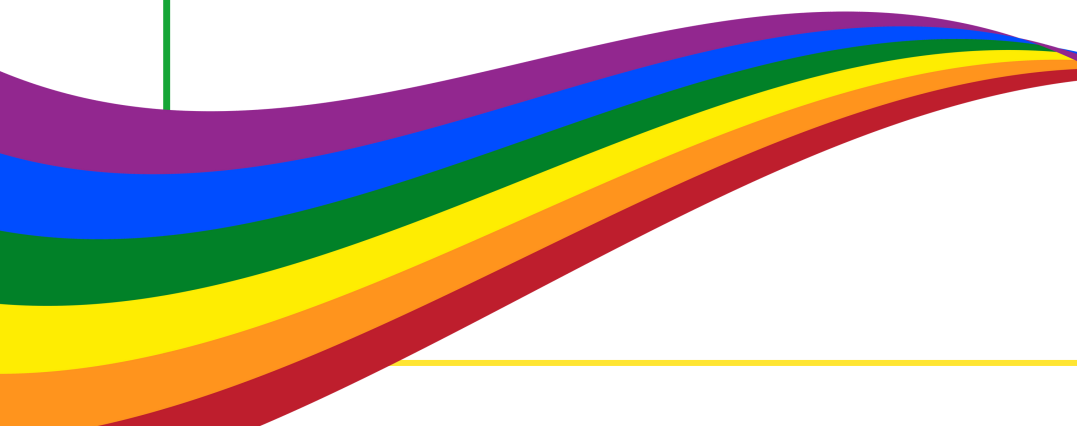
equalitytexas.org

Resources on current legal news, issues, and legislation. Provides a bill tracker of bills that affect LGBTQ+ Texans filed in each session of the Texas Legislature.

LGBTQ Voting Rights Guide

<https://texaslawhelp.org/article/lgbtq-voting-rights-guide/>

Guide to registering to vote and voting rights in Texas.



**I have experienced
discrimination or harassment.
Who can I contact for help?**

**REPORT LGBTQ OR HIV
DISCRIMINATION TO THE ACLU
OF TEXAS**

If you have experienced discrimination or harassment based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status, contact the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to apply for legal help.

Submit an intake form by visiting the following website:

action.aclu.org/legal-intake/report-lgbtqhiv-discrimination?ms=web_LGBTintake/

Call any of the hotlines listed on the back of this guide for further resources if you have experienced discrimination.



I need an estate plan.

National Resource Center on LGBTQ+ Aging

lgbtagingcenter.org

Resources, referrals, education, and more services for older LGBTQ people.

Estate Planning Considerations for LGBTQ Couples

nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/six-key-estate-planning-issues-gay-lesbian-couples.html

This article summarizes important topics in estate planning especially relevant to LGBTQ people.

LGBTQ+ Advance Healthcare Planning

texaslawhelp.org/article/lgbtq-advance-healthcare-planning/

This article defines advance healthcare planning and its importance when planning end-of-life matters.

Texas Guide to Disposition of Remains

texaslawhelp.org/guide/texas-guide-to-disposition-of-remains/

Instructions and sample legal forms to appoint someone to dispose of remains and make other arrangements after someone passes.

Louisiana LGBTQ+ EOL Guide

wake.education/lgbtqeolguide/

This manual provides a comprehensive overview of many legal issues to consider when planning end-of-life matters as an LGBTQ person.

Who can help me with end-of-life planning?

Coalition for Aging LGBT

cfa.lgbt

Resources and information on programs across Texas that serve LGBTQ elders.

Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders (SAGE)

sageusa.org

SAGE National LGBT+ Elder Hotline: 877-360-5428
Reach out for crisis response and support resources such as healthcare, transportation, counseling, legal services, and emotional support programs.

Elder Care Resources in Harris County

Law Harrington LGBTQ-Affirming Senior Living: the Montrose Center

montrosecenter.org/micro-sites/law-harrington/
713-497-5549

Senior living center for low-income LGBTQ individuals and couples who are 62 years or older.

Harris County Area Agency on Aging (HCAAA)

houstontx.gov/health/Aging/
832-393-4301

Part of the Houston Health Department, the HCAAA provides multiple programs and resources for Harris County residents aged 60 or older.



**I have a question
about
employment.**

**LEARN ABOUT
YOUR RIGHTS**

LGBTQ Rights in the U.S. Workplace - Chamber of Commerce

chamberofcommerce.org/lgbtq-workplace-rights/

Overview of rights for LGBTQ people in the workplace.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Discrimination - U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

eoc.gov/sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity-sogi-discrimination/

Overview of laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace.

LGBTQ+ Recruitment -Human Rights Campaign

hrc.org/resources/lgbt-recruitment/

Resources for employees, employers, professional and student associations, and recruiters on LGBTQ people in the workforce.

Where can I go for help with employment?

Employee Rights & Laws: Texas Workforce Commission

twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/employee-rights-laws/
Overview of Texas laws that protect workers from discrimination in the workplace and information about submitting an employment discrimination complaint.

Career Services: Center Works

gaycenter.org/career-services/
Resources, support, and networking opportunities for young LGBTQ people searching for a job or seeking support with transitioning in the workplace.

HARRIS COUNTY RESOURCES

Employment Solutions and Financial Education: the Montrose Center

montrosecenter.org/services/case-management/esfe/
713-529-00374

Workforce Solutions (Houston-Galveston)

wrksolutions.com

I need help with a family matter.

**LEARN ABOUT
YOUR RIGHTS**

LGBTQ+ Parental Rights

texaslawhelp.org/article/lgbtq-parental-rights/

Information about laws and rights affecting LGBTQ+ parents, such as assistive reproduction and adoption.

Transgender Youth and CPS

texaslawhelp.org/article/transgender-youth-cps/

Answers to questions about handling CPS investigations and services for families with transgender youth.

LGBTQ+ Relationships and Domestic Violence

texaslawhelp.org/article/lgbt-relationships-and-domestic-violence/

Resources on domestic violence for LGBTQ+ people.



Where can I go for help with a family matter?

Academy of Adoption & Assisted Reproduction Attorneys

adoptionart.org/find-an-attorney/

Provides information about finding an experienced attorney to help with adoption and assisted reproduction issues.

L.G.B.T. Bar Association's Family Law Institute

lgbtqbar.org/programs/member-practice-area-groups/family-law-institute/

Provides a public directory of family attorneys to assist with LGBTQ family law issues.

National Center for Lesbian Rights

www.nclrights.org

Offers a legal helpline and resources dealing with family and relationships, parenting, and marriage, as well as resources for LGBTQ youth.



I need help finding housing.

LGBTQ Homelessness: HUD Exchange

hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-lgbt-homelessness/

This website from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has several resources for finding housing while in crisis, reporting discrimination, and learning about equal access rights for LGBTQ people in housing and shelters.



I need help finding housing.

HARRIS COUNTY RESOURCES

Houston-Harris County Eviction Intervention Program

houstonharrishelp.org

Hotline: 713-874-6609

Rental assistance for eligible and approved tenants for past due rent to help prevent eviction.

Houston Housing Authority Affordable Housing Programs

housingforhouston.com

Information about housing programs, affordable housing developments, and more client services for eligible applicants.

Covenant House - Houston, Texas

covenanthousetx.org

Hotline: 713-523-2231

After 3pm call: 713-360-5601

Temporary and permanent housing services for young LGBTQ people facing homelessness and survivors of human trafficking.

Montrose Grace Place

<https://www.montrosegaceplace.org/>

Hotline: 832-239-0824

Provides a variety of resources such as housing assistance, hot meals, clothing, and toiletries to LGBTQ+ youth.

I need help with healthcare.

LGBTQ Health: Texas Medical Association

texmed.org/LGBTQ/

Advocacy and provider resources on current topics in healthcare that affect LGBTQ Texans.

Help Center TX - Help Center for LGBT Health & Wellness

helpcentertx.org

Free preventative healthcare services for LGBTQ Texans at HELP Center locations located in Fort Worth and Arlington.



I need help with healthcare.

HARRIS COUNTY RESOURCES

AIDS Foundation of Houston

afhouston.org

Free HIV/STI testing, treatment, and consultations.

Baylor Teen Health Clinic (Multiple Locations)

bcm.edu/community/healthcare-outreach/teen-health-clinic/

Low-cost preventative healthcare for Houston's underserved youth.

The Montrose Center

montrosecenter.org

401 Branard Street

713-529-00374

Behavioral health, wellness, HIV services, substance abuse recovery, case management, counseling, and more.

Legacy Community Health (Multiple Locations)

legacycommunityhealth.org

Affordable adult primary care, pediatrics, HIV/AIDS healthcare, gender health and wellness care, and more.

Hotlines

AIDS Foundation of Houston
713-623-6796

Anti-Violence Project Texas Hotline
212-714-1141

Covenant House
3412 Beulah Street
713-523-2231

LGBT Switchboard Houston 24-Hour Helpline
713-529-3211

The Montrose Center
401 Branard Street
713-529-0037

Pride Charities
281-254-8003

Trans Lifeline
877-565-8860

Trevor Project
1-866-488-7386
