

2026 TEXAS LABOR LAWS



This poster must be in a conspicuous place accesible to all employees.

This poster does not provide any legal advice and is distributed independently by each Journey Location. Poster up to date as of March 1, 2026



Minimum Wage:
\$7.25
Tipped Minimum Wage:
\$2.13



EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IS ...
IGUALDAD DE OPORTUNIDADES EN EL EMPLEO ES ...

The Law in Texas

The law prohibits employers, employment agencies and labor unions from denying equal employment opportunities in

- hiring
- promotion
- discharge
- pay
- fringe benefits
- membership
- training
- other aspects of employment

because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, or disability.

The Sex Protected Class includes Sexual Harassment, Gender Stereotyping, Pregnancy Discrimination, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation.

La Ley en Texas

La ley prohíbe a los empleadores, agencias de empleo y sindicatos de negar la igualdad de oportunidades de empleo en

- ocupar
- ascensos
- desocupar
- pago
- beneficios
- membresía
- entrenamiento
- otros aspectos del empleo

por causa de raza, color, nacionalidad, religion, sexo, edad, o incapacidad.

La clase protegida por sexo incluye acoso sexual, estereotipos de género, discriminación por embarazo, identidad de género y orientación sexual.

If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the Texas Workforce Commission, Civil Rights Division
Si usted cree que ha sido discriminado, comuníquese con la Comisión Laboral de Texas, División de Derechos Civiles

Website: www.twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/how-submit-employment-discrimination-complaint
Email: EEOIntake@twc.texas.gov

101 E. 15th Street, RM. 154; Austin, TX 78778
(512) 463-2642
Toll Free (within Texas) 1-888-452-4778
TTY (512) 371-7473

Equal Opportunity Employer / Program
Igualdad de Oportunidad de Empleo / Programa

Reporting Workplace Violence

Employees can report instances of workplace violence or suspicious activity by contacting the Department of Public Safety (DPS) through the iWatchTexas Community Reporting System at www.iwatchtx.org, or by calling 844-643-2251. Employees have the right to make a report to DPS anonymously.

Reportando La Violencia en el Trabajo

Los empleados pueden denunciar casos de violencia en el trabajo o actividades sospechosas comunicándose con el Departamento de Seguridad Pública (DPS) a través del Sistema de Informes Comunitarios iWatchTexas en www.iwatchtx.org, o llamando al 844-643-2251. Los empleados tienen derecho a presentarle una queja al DPS de forma anónima.



CHILD LABOR LAWS Texas Workforce Commission Wage and Hour Department, Child Labor Enforcement U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division



For further information about Texas' child labor laws, call:
800-832-9243 (TDD 800-735-2989)

This poster provides some guidelines to the Texas child labor laws, but it is not complete. Chapter 51, Texas Labor Code, governs the employment of children under Texas state law. MINIMUM AGE FOR EMPLOYMENT IS 14; however, state and federal laws provide for certain exceptions. Please call TWC's Wage and Hour Department concerning questions about labor law. The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) governs federal laws and guidelines pertaining to child labor. For information concerning federal child labor laws, consult your local office of the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division or call 866-487-9243

The following are prohibited occupations for 14- through 17-year-old children:
Prohibited occupations are the same for both federal and state law. The hazardous occupations designated by an asterisk (*) have provisions for employment of persons below the age of eighteen (18), provided applicable apprentice or student-learner certification has been obtained. Persons desiring specific information about these exceptions should contact the nearest office of the United States Department of Labor.

Occupations declared particularly hazardous or detrimental to the health or well-being of all children 14 through 17 years of age include occupations:

- (1) in or about plants or establishments other than retail establishments which manufacture or store explosives or articles containing explosive components other than retail establishments,
- (2) involving the driving of motor vehicles and outside helpers
 - A. on any public road or highway,
 - B. in or about any place where logging or sawmill operations are in progress, or
 - C. in excavations.(Under certain conditions, driving a motor vehicle for a commercial purpose is NOT considered a hazardous occupation under state or federal law,
- (3) connected with coal mining,
- (4) in logging and sawmill occupations and occupations involving firefighting and timber tracts,
- (5) * in operating or assisting to operate power-driven woodworking machines,
- (6) involving exposure to radioactive substances and to ionizing radiations,
- (7) in operating or assist to operate power-driven hoisting apparatus such as elevators, cranes, derricks, hoists, high-lift trucks,
- (8) * in operating or assisting to operate power-driven metal forming, punching, and shearing machines,
- (9) in connection with mining, other than coal,
 - A. in operating or assisting to operate power-driven meat processing machines, and occupations including slaughtering, meat packing, processing, or rendering,
- (11) in operating or assisting to operate power-driven bakery machines,
- (12) * involved in the operation of power-driven paper-products machines, balers and compactors,
- (13) in manufacturing brick, tile, and kindred products,
- (14) * in operating or assisting to operate power-driven circular saws, bandsaws and guillotine shears, abrasive cutting discs, reciprocating saws, chain saws and wood-chippers,
- (15) in wrecking, demolition, and ship-breaking operations,
- (16) * in roofing operations and on or about a roof, and
- (17) in connection with excavation operations.

Additional prohibited occupations that apply under state law:
(1) Occupations involved in sales and solicitation by a child under 18 years of age. Consult 51.0145 Texas Labor Code for exceptions and requirements.
(2) Occupations in sexually oriented businesses by a child under 21 years of age.

PENALTIES:

State of Texas — An offense under Chapter 51, Texas Labor Code, is a Class B misdemeanor, except for the offense of employing a child under 14 to sell or solicit, which is a Class A misdemeanor. If the Commission determines that a person who employs a child has violated this Act, or a rule adopted under this Act, the Commission may assess an administrative penalty against that person in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation. The attorney general may seek injunctive relief in district court against an employer who repeatedly violates the requirements established by this Act relating to the employment of children.
Federal — The FLSA prescribes a maximum administrative penalty of \$11,000 per violation and/or criminal prosecution and fines.

Additional prohibited occupations that apply only to 14- and 15-year-old children:

- Occupations declared particularly hazardous or detrimental to the health or well-being of 14- and 15-year-old children include:
- (1) mining, manufacturing, or processing occupations, including duties in workrooms or places where goods are manufactured, mined, or otherwise processed,
 - (2) operating or assisting in operating power-driven machinery or hoisting apparatus other than typical office machines,
 - (3) work as a ride attendant or ride operator at an amusement park or a "dispatcher" at the top of elevated water slides,
 - (4) driving a motor vehicle or helping a driver,
 - (5) occupations involved in transporting persons or property by rail, highway, air, water, pipeline, or other means,
 - (6) youth peddling, sign waving, or door-to-door sales,
 - (7) poultry catching or cooping,
 - (8) lifeguarding at a natural environment such as a lake, river, ocean beach, quarry, pond (youth must be at least 15 years of age and properly certified to be a lifeguard at a traditional swimming pool or water amusement park),
 - (9) public messenger jobs,
 - (10) communications and public utilities jobs,
 - (11) construction including demolition and repair, work performed in or about boiler or engine rooms or in connection with the maintenance or repair of the establishment, machines, or equipment,
 - (12) outside window washing that involves working from window sills, and all work requiring the use of ladders, scaffolds or their substitutes,
 - (13) cooking, except with gas or electric grills that do not involve cooking over an open flame and with deep fat fryers that utilize devices that automatically lower and raise the baskets from the hot grease or oil,
 - (14) baking and all activities involved in baking,
 - (15) occupations which involve operating, setting up, adjusting, cleaning, oiling, or repairing power-driven food slicers and grinders, food choppers and cutters, and bakery-type mixers,
 - (16) freezers or meat coolers work, except minors may occasionally enter a freezer for a short period of time to retrieve items,
 - (17) meat processing and work in areas where meat is processed,
 - (18) loading and unloading goods to and from trucks, railroad cars or conveyors, and
 - (19) all occupations in warehouses and storage except office and clerical work.

Work times for 14- and 15-year-old children:

State Law — A person commits an offense if that person permits a child 14 or 15 years of age who is employed by that person to work:
(1) more than 8 hours in one day or more than 48 hours in one week,
(2) between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. on a day that is followed by a school day or between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m. on a day that is not followed by a school day if the child is enrolled in school, or
(3) between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m. on any day during the time school is recessed for the summer if the child is not enrolled in summer school.

Federal Law — The FLSA further regulates hours of employment. 14 and 15 year old children may not work:
(1) during school hours,
(2) more than eight hours on a non-school day or 40 hours during a non-school week,
(3) more than three hours on a school day or 18 hours during a school week, and
(4) between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. during the school year, or between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. from June 1 and Labor Day.

Child Actors- state law

Child actor definition — a child under the age of 14 who is to be employed as an actor or other performer

Child actor extra definition — a child under the age of 14 who is employed as an extra without any speaking, singing, or dancing roles, usually in the background of the performance

Every person applying for child actor authorization must submit an application for authorization on a form provided by the Texas Workforce Commission.

Special authorization for child actors to be employed as extras is granted without the need for filing an application if the employer meets the Texas Workforce Commission's requirements. Contact 1-800-832-9243 for instruction.

Are You Owed Wages?

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO FILE A WAGE CLAIM UNDER THE TEXAS PAYDAY LAW

Wages are:

- Payment owed to an employee by an employer for labor or services performed
- Calculated based on time, task, piece, commission, etc.
- Owed for vacation, severance, holiday, sick leave or parental leave only if provided for by a written agreement or policy.

Wages must be paid:

- At least once a month to Fair Labor Standards Act or FLSA-exempt employees
- At least twice a month to FLSA-non-exempt employees
- In full no later than the sixth day following an employee's discharge
- In full no later than the next regular payday for employees who leave for reasons other than discharge
- For bonus-or-commissions-based payments in the same timely manner, and as agreed upon by the employer and employee.

Wages may be withheld or diverted by the employer only if:

- Authorized to do so by a proper court, or
- Authorized to do so by state or federal law, or
- The employee gives written permission to do so for a lawful purpose.

Workers who believe wages are due them...

May file a wage claim using TWC's online system or by using a paper form that you print and mail or fax to TWC. Go to <https://twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/texas-payday-law> to file online, or get a paper wage claim form at a TWC Workforce office, download from our website, or call the numbers listed below to have the form mailed to you. Wage claims must be filed with the Texas Workforce Commission Labor Law Section not later than the 180th day after the wages were due for payment.

It's Your Pay. You're Protected.

Online: twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/texas-payday-law
Use the Quick Response (QR) code to go to the Online form.

Mail your PAYDAY CLAIM to:
Texas Workforce Commission
Wage and Hour department
101 East 15th Street, Room 514
Austin, Texas 78778 Call 800-832-9243

Fax to (512) 475-3025

Go to <https://twc.texas.gov/jobseekers/texas-payday-law> for more information.
Questions: 800-832-9243 or (512) 475-2670 (TDD 800-735-2989)



NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

The Texas Hazard Communication Act, codified as Chapter 502 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, requires public employers to provide employees with specific information on the hazards of chemicals to which employees may be exposed in the workplace. As required by law, your employer must provide you with certain information and training. A brief summary of the law follows.

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Hazardous chemicals are any products or materials that present any physical or health hazards when used, unless they are exempted under the law. Some examples of more commonly used hazardous chemicals are fuels, cleaning products, solvents, many types of oils, compressed gases, many types of paints, pesticides, herbicides, refrigerants, laboratory chemicals, cement, welding rods, etc.

WORKPLACE CHEMICAL LIST

Employers must develop a list of hazardous chemicals used or stored in the workplace in excess of 55 gallons or 500 pounds. This list shall be updated by the employer as necessary, but at least annually, and be made readily available for employees and their representatives on request.

EMPLOYEE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Employers shall provide training to newly assigned employees before the employees work in a work area containing a hazardous chemical. Covered employees shall receive training from the employer on the hazards of the chemicals and on the measures they can take to protect themselves from those hazards. This training shall be repeated as needed, but at least whenever new hazards are introduced into the workplace or new information is received on the chemicals which are already present.

EMPLOYERS MAY BE SUBJECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES AND CIVIL OR CRIMINAL FINES RANGING FROM \$50 TO \$100,000 FOR EACH VIOLATION OF THIS ACT

Further information may be obtained from:

Texas Department of State Health Services
Consumer Protection Division
Environmental Operations Branch
PO Box 149347, MC 2835
Austin, TX 78714-9347

(512) 834-6787
(800) 293-0753 (toll-free)
Fax: (512) 483-3414
E-mail: TXHazComHelp@dshs.texas.gov
Website: www.dshs.texas.gov/hazcom



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

Worker Right-To-Know Program
Publication # E23-14173
Revised May 2024

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES CONCERNING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM FROM THE OFFICE OF INJURED EMPLOYEE COUNSEL

Have you been injured on the job? As an injured employee in Texas, you have the right to free assistance from the **Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC)**. OIEC is the state agency that assists unrepresented injured employees with their claim in the workers' compensation system.

You can contact OIEC by calling its toll-free telephone number: **1-866-393-6432**.

More information about OIEC and its Ombudsman Program is available at the agency's website (www.oiec.texas.gov).

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

What Is An Ombudsman? An Ombudsman is an employee of OIEC who can assist you if you have a dispute with your employer's insurance carrier. An Ombudsman's assistance is free of charge. Each Ombudsman has completed a comprehensive training program designed specifically to assist you with your dispute.

An Ombudsman can help you identify and develop the disputed issues in your case and attempt to resolve them. If the issues cannot be resolved, the Ombudsman can help you request a dispute resolution proceeding at the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Once a proceeding is scheduled an Ombudsman can:

- Help you prepare for the proceeding (Benefit Review Conference and/or Contested Case Hearing);
 - Attend the proceeding with you and communicate on your behalf; and
- Assist you with an appeal or a response to an insurance carrier's appeal, if necessary.



Figure 28 TAC §276.5(c) – September 2022



Texas Workforce Commission ATTENTION EMPLOYEES

Your employer reports your wages to the Texas Workforce Commission. If you become unemployed or your work hours are reduced, you may be eligible for unemployment benefit payments. File online at www.twc.texas.gov or call 1-800-939-6631. Additional assistance may be available at your local Workforce Solutions Office; please visit the directory at: www.twc.texas.gov/directory-workforce-solutions-offices-services.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits are available to workers who are unemployed and who meet the requirements of state UI eligibility laws.

To file, you will need to provide your full legal name and your social security number or your authorization to work.

The Texas Payday Law, Title II, Chapter 61, Texas Labor Code, requires Texas employers to pay their employees who are exempt from the overtime pay provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 at least once per month. All other employees must be paid at least twice a month and each pay period must consist as nearly as possible of an equal number of days.

Scheduled paydays: (You must indicate date or dates of the month for employees paid monthly or semi-monthly, and day of the week for employees paid weekly or at other times.)

MONTHLY: _____ SEMI-MONTHLY: _____ WEEKLY: _____ OTHER: _____

TO EMPLOYERS: Texas Labor Code section 208.001(b) and 40 T.A.C. 815.1(14)(A) & (B) require that this notice, or its equivalent, be displayed in a location reasonably calculated to be encountered by all employees, and that an employer provide such information, individually, to an employee upon separation from employment.

To report suspected fraud, waste or abuse of the program call 800-252-3642.