

13th Biennial Sampson, Tindall & England's Family Law Legislative Update

Presented by
The University of Texas School of Law
Continuing Legal Education



UTCLE
June 18, 2015

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Special thanks to Elizabeth G. Wood and Elizabeth H. Edwards for assisting in researching and editing the legislative materials for this presentation.



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84th Texas Legislative Session Overview

- ▶ Convened January 13, 2015
- ▶ Adjourned Since June 1, 2015
- ▶ 6,276 bills introduced
- ▶ 1,323 bills enrolled
- ▶ 21% passed in both House & Senate



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2015 Family Code Headlines

- ▶ Sincerely Held Religious Beliefs– [SB 2065](#)
- ▶ Abortion restrictions – [HB 3994](#)
- ▶ Child Custody Evaluations – [HB 1449](#)
- ▶ Office of Child Representation – [HB 3003](#)
- ▶ Dental insurance for children – [SB 550](#)
- ▶ UIFSA for international cases – [HB 3538](#)
- ▶ Sunset legislation for Texas Department of Family and Protective Services – [SB 206](#)



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Family Code Changes 2001-2015

Legislative Session	Changes enacted by legislation	Changes suggested in all filed bills	Percentage of changes enacted
77 th (2001)	508	783	65%
78 th (2003)	364	819	44%
79 th (2005)	281	759	37%
80 th (2007)	375	928	40%
81 st (2009)	278	966	28%
82 nd (2011)	269	877	26%
83 rd (2013)	299	806	37%
84 th (2015)	1116	2497	45%

Since 2001, there has been 3998 changes to the Texas Family Code!
“Changes” are additions, repeals, or amendments to the Family Code

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Family Code Amendments Compared to Other Codes

- ▶ Civil Practice & Remedies Code – 91 changes
- ▶ Estates Code – 235 changes
- ▶ Property Code – 200 changes
- ▶ **Family Code – 1116 changes**
- ▶ Penal Code – 148 changes

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First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
13th Biennial Sampson, Tindall and England Family Law Legislative Update session
"Family Law Legislative Update"