



[Return to Improving Outcomes](#)

The mission of Texas Lawyers for Children (“TLC”) is to improve case outcomes for abused and neglected children by enhancing the quality of legal services they receive. The most important decisions about an abused or neglected child's future are made in court. TLC exists to help ensure that those decisions are the best possible for the child.

HISTORY:

Texas Lawyers for Children is a program of Texas Loves Children, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, founded in 1995 to provide specialized training about child abuse issues to Dallas judges and attorneys. For the last 14 years, TLC has sponsored high-quality training seminars on critical legal, medical, and mental health issues for judges, attorneys, CPS workers, CASA volunteers, and law enforcement personnel.

In May 2004, TLC launched the Texas Lawyers for Children online legal resource and communication center designed to further extend the availability of training and information, located at www.TexasLawyersforChildren.org. TLC has continually enhanced the resource center by adding new best practice information, new research, and additional services. As a key to implementing best practices, TLC also created communication tools: email networks, discussion boards, document vaults, an expert witness databank, and a statewide Pro Bono network. In November 2007, the Texas Supreme Court’s Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families selected TLC’s website program as one of its Texas Court Improvement Program projects for improving the court system’s handling of child abuse cases. During 2008, TLC replicated its website model for California’s Administrative Office of the Courts, which launched its online legal resource center, the [California Dependency Online Guide](#), in December 2008. This collaboration marked a momentous leap in realizing TLC’s goal of creating a national network of online centers that work together to help children by sharing information and best practices.

TLC continues to address the needs of the Texas legal community that handles the cases of abused and neglected children. Additionally, it began the Improving Outcomes national campaign to extend to other states its vision of a best practices network. TLC hopes to help as many states as possible in providing their professionals with best practice information through the Improving Outcomes Network and by providing general guidance and ideas on methods to convey best practice information on a statewide basis.