

Texas State Law Library

[Home](#) / [Guides](#) / [Recording Laws](#)

Recording Laws

Information about Texas and federal laws that regulate surveillance, electronic monitoring, and recording.

Drones

- [Texas & Federal Laws](#)

Texas & Federal Laws

Below you will find references to areas of the Texas statutes and federal law that govern unmanned aircrafts, otherwise known as drones. If you find these statutes difficult to understand, you may want to look at the “plain English” resources on this page or speak to an attorney.

Drones are also regulated by Texas municipalities. Be sure to also check your local code of ordinances to see if any additional laws exist. See our Municipal Laws and Ordinances <<https://www.sll.texas.gov/law-legislation/municipal-laws-and-ordinances/>> page for assistance locating your local laws.

Texas Laws

- Section 21.15 of the Texas Penal Code
State law that outlines the criminal offense of invasive visual recording.
- Texas Government Code, Chapter 423
State law that governs when it is lawful to capture an image using an unmanned aircraft. Also known as the Texas Privacy Act.

State Regulations

- 31 Texas Administrative Code Rule 65.152
Regulations from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department on the use of drones to hunt, drive, capture, take, count or photograph wildlife.
- 37 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 8, Subchapter B
Regulations from the Texas Department of Public Safety prohibiting the use of drones over the Capitol Complex in Austin without authorization.

Federal Regulations

- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 14, Part 107
Federal regulations created by the Federal Aviation Administration for the operation of small unmanned aircraft systems.

Understanding the Law

- FAA - Unmanned Aircraft Systems
Information on drones from the Federal Aviation Administration. Here, you can register your drone, petition for an exemption and find federal rules and regulations.
- Texas Drone Regulations
Created by the Texas Film Commission, a listing of both state and federal regulations to consider when flying a drone for film and TV productions
- Know Before You Fly
This website is an education campaign founded by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International and the Academy of Model Aeronautics, in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration to educate prospective users about the safe and responsible operation of unmanned aircraft systems.

- **Drones & Privacy: Potential Common Law Claims**
Part one of the series from the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension that discusses the two potential common law claims when it come to drones: trespass and nuisance.
- **Drones & Privacy: Texas Privacy Act**
Part two of the series from the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension that discusses the Texas Privacy Act.
- **The UAS ("Drone") Rules Are Here**
A 2016 post by the Texas Agrilife Extension discussing the FAA's regulations on unmanned aircrafts.
- **What to Do When Your Neighbor Has a Drone**
An article from self-help publisher NOLO Press discussing whether a neighbor can fly over your property with a drone.

Note The library cannot tell you what the law means for your situation.



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<< **Previous:** Visual Recording

Next: Traffic Enforcement >>

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Subjects: Criminal Law **Tags:** advance directive, phone tapping, privacy, recording, recording conversations, red light camera, surveillance, traffic camera, traffic signal cameras