


The Texas Open Meetings Act



Unconstitutional?

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Applicability of the Act

- What is a “meeting?”
- Social gatherings and seminars
- Circumvention

Applicability of the Act

What Constitutes a Meeting?

- A **meeting** occurs when:
 1. A **quorum** of a governmental body gathers;
 2. the **public business** that the governmental body has authority to supervise or oversee is **discussed**; and
 3. **either**:
 - a. a **member** of the governmental body **participates in the discussion**; or
 - b. the governmental body (a) **called the meeting** and (b) **conducts or is responsible for the meeting**.
- The Act does not apply to **social functions** or **regional, state, or national workshops** if the governmental body’s public business is not discussed
- **Examples:** formal meeting, attendance at another entity’s meeting, attendance at a city’s board or committee meeting, social situations, “staff briefings,” using the restroom, “walking quorum,” circulating an invoice or letter for signature outside of a meeting, e-mail
- **Attorney general’s advice:** develop a habit of asking yourself, “is this a meeting?”
