

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**SW PRACTICE WITH ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**Fall 2017**

**Course and Unique Number: SW360K 61380 & SW360K 61720**

**Meeting Time/Place: Wednesdays 5:30p.m. – 8:30p.m. /SSW 2.116**

**Instructors' Name: Lori Lewis-Conerly, MSW  
(512)554-3159(cell)**

**Office Number: SSW 3.104**

**Office Hours: Availability by appointment: Wednesdays  
4:30p.m. – 5:30p.m.  
8:30p.m. – 9:00p.m.**

**I. Course Description**

This course examine from a variety of theoretical frameworks the factors, indicators, and dynamics associated with child maltreatment, including physical abuse, assessment orientation, with a child-focused, family-centered strengths approach. Prevention, practice, policy and research issues will be critically assessed. Child maltreatment will be examined within its relationship to other social welfare problems. The course will explore indicators of populations at risk of being victims of abuse and neglect, as well as those at risk of abusing or neglecting their children. Particular attention will be given to understanding the service delivery system involved in developing the health and well-being of maltreated children and their families, including investigation of allegations, risk assessment, emergency shelter services, family safety services, out of allegations, risk assessment, emergency shelter services, family safety services, out of home placement, foster care and kinship care, and adoption. The role of the legal system will be explored as well. Controversial issues in child welfare will be discussed within the framework of the values of the social work profession.

This course is a cross-listed practice elective. Social work students are given priority for course registration, while students from other disciplines are admitted with permission of the instructor. This course does build on the liberal arts perspective. No other prerequisites are required. Issues related to social injustice and cultural diversity will be addressed in micro, mezzo, and macro level assignments, course readings and special topics designated in the course schedule of this syllabus.

**II. Course Objectives**

The course objectives include the ability of the student to:

1. Understand the social context of abuse and neglect of children through a historical overview of child maltreatment.

2. Demonstrate self-awareness of personal beliefs, values, and attitudes about child abuse and neglect through examination of ethical dilemmas and their impact on practice, service, and clients.
3. Demonstrate understanding, affirmation, and respect for persons from different backgrounds, including age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, class, religious belief or spirituality, family structure, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, national origin, or other issues of diversity related to child abuse and neglect.
4. Apply varied theoretical approaches in assessing factors, indicators, and dynamics associated with child maltreatment.
5. Identify the impact of abuse and neglect on the physical, intellectual, psychosocial and moral development of the child.
6. Understand and apply risk assessment skills to the service stages of child protection.
7. Critically assess policy, practice, and research issues that focus on culturally relevant prevention and intervention in child maltreatment.
8. Understand social and economic justice issues relating to child maltreatment and its relationship to other social welfare problems including juvenile crime, substance abuse, domestic violence, poverty, as well as developing an awareness of the global interconnections of violence and oppression.
9. Understand the complex array of social services provided to abused children and their families in order to promote healthy families and well-being, as well as an understanding of the process and services provided when out of home placement is in the best interest of the child's safety, health and well-being.

### **III. Teaching Methods**

This is a very **experiential** class. A variety of teaching methods will be used including lecture, discussion, guest speakers, exercises, video materials, a field visit and student presentations.

Laptops will not be needed in class nor are they allowed.

### **IV. Required Text and Materials**

Crosson-Tower, C. (2014). *Understanding child abuse and neglect* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Allyn and Bacon. **(Required)**

**Any additional readings will be provided in class or via e-mail.**

**Canvas:** Grades will be posted in Canvas.

Students will select, from the list below, an additional book for the Book Reflection assignment.

Crosson-Tower, Cynthia. (2007). *From the Eye of the Storm : The Experiences of a Child Welfare Worker*. Pearson.

Perry, B. (2006). *The boy who was raised as a dog; And other stories from a child psychiatrist's notebook*. New York: Basic Books

McKenzie, C. (2009). *She Never Answered*. Asta Publications.

## V. Course Requirements

<u>Due Dates</u>	<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Possible Points</u>
September 27th	Agency Reflection Paper	75
October 4th	Exam I	100
November 15th	Book Reflection Paper	100
November 29 <sup>th</sup> & Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Group Project	100
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Exam II	100
Ongoing	Professional Accountability	25
September 20th & October 25th	2 Topic Reflection Papers	50 pts each
	<b>Total:</b>	600

## Examinations

**Announced/Unannounced class quizzes, mid-term and final examinations based on readings, lectures, speakers, discussions and class activities.** Exams may include a variety of testing strategies, but will primarily consist of short answer questions and case scenarios. Quizzes may be verbal or written. You will be allowed 70 minutes for the mid-term and final exam. Time for quizzes depends on the quiz type and content.

## GROUP PROJECT

This assignment gives the student the opportunity to conduct further research on a critical child welfare issue. Working in small groups, students will make an in class presentation on an assigned topic. Grading is based on the group's ability to research and present major child welfare points and should address the following:

- Overview of the topic and its intersection with child welfare

- Child Welfare Agency policy implications ~~ agency policies that guide working with families associated with the topic;
- Federal/state/local laws supporting or governing work with families
- Child Welfare Agency practice implications ~~ discuss evidenced based, evidenced informed or promising practices associated with the topic
- National/State/Local/Agency/Organizational data supporting the intersection and describing the need for attention to this topic

Sources, **must include**, but are not limited to: (you must cite sources)

- Information learned in class in the presentation
- National Child Welfare journals/websites
- Books
- Information obtained from a child welfare organization/agency
- Fact finding should also include contacting child welfare agencies and/or organizations

**Each group member is expected to participate in the 30 minute oral presentation.**

Groups will ensure the instructor receives a copy of all handouts, including the powerpoint. A bibliography is required. **Group members will be required to wear professional clothing (absolutely no jeans/flip flops/shorts/capris/tank tops without a jacket).**

*For this class assignment, the dress code is designed to provide a set of standards modeling appropriate work attire. A well-defined dress code communicates maturity, professionalism, capability, and competency. Your attire is a reflection of your attitude(s) about yourself and portrays the impression you want others to have of you.*

Due on the day of the presentation, each group member will prepare a **brief type-written statement** (no more than 4-5 sentences):

- outlining their contributions to the project, and an
- evaluation of each group member.

**Failure to turn in the statement as a group will result in an automatic 10 point deduction for all group members. As a group, the “statement” must be turned in during class.....NO E-MAILS will be accepted for this part of the assignment.** It may be helpful for each member of the group to maintain a log to document their efforts throughout the semester.

*Grading rubric will be provided.* The dates for the presentations are noted below in the course schedule. As time allows, class time will be set aside for groups to meet. This **is not** intended to be

the only opportunity for your group to meet; the expectation is that your group will arrange additional meetings outside of class.

### **Group Presentation Topics**

1. Poverty, Neglect & Child Maltreatment
2. Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment
3. Alcohol, Substance Abuse & Child Maltreatment
4. Mental Health & Child Maltreatment
5. Safety & Risk Assessment

### **AGENCY REFLECTION PAPER**

**APA Style (5<sup>th</sup> Ed)**

**2-pages (excluding title page)** reflecting your observations and opinions of what you saw and heard during the field visit. Within your paper, capture 2 areas to expand on. Include presenter quotes or any additional research to enhance communication and understanding of the areas of chosen. **Note:::full 2 pages...*anything less*** will result in a deduction of points. **Points will also be deducted for anything more than 2 pages, including one sentence under or over.**

**(excluding title page).**

***MSW students***~~ Provide an additional page to expand one of your chosen areas. Describe how this area has improved child welfare outcomes in another child welfare state.

All students should cite references

### **BOOK REFLECTION PAPER**

**APA Style (5<sup>th</sup> Ed)**

**4-5 pages (excluding title page)** **Automatic 10 Points will be deducted for anything less than four or more than five pages, including one sentence under or over.**

This paper will give the student the opportunity to reflect on their observations, feelings and experiences relating to the selected reading.

- Reflect on at least 6 chapters.

- Content should incorporate material presented and discussed in class.

MSW Students provide 4 pages for b

- 4 page Book Reflection
- 5<sup>th</sup> page
  - Sub-Heading – from the reading, select and describe an ethical issue that confronts practitioners (sub-heading should be the name of the ethical issue)
  - Include a pro and con example to address the ethical issue at either the micro, mezzo, and macro level (be specific when describing each/cite references)

### ALL ASSIGNMENTS

**Students are expected to produce high quality work in terms of appearance, writing style, and content. POINTS will be deducted for errors, misspellings, incorrect grammar, poor organization, repetitive information and failure to include all the required information as listed in the format.**

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**Papers and assignments are to be submitted via hard copy during class. Late papers and assignments will be penalized 5pts. for each late calendar day. A paper or assignment is late if not received by the end of class (8:30p.m.) on the date the paper or assignment is due. If not received by 5:30p.m., the next day it is considered two days late, etc.**

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### **PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE SKILLS (PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY)**

Students are expected to follow the Standards for Social Work Education. This is worth 25 points of your final grade. This includes **behavior and consistent participation in class discussions and attendance.** These standards can be found at:

<http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/dl/files/academic-programs/other/standards-sw-education.pdf>

#### **2.3.2 Professional Behavior**

Exhibits behaviors that are in compliance with program policies, institutional policies, professional ethical standards, and societal laws in classroom, field, and community. Appearance, dress, and general demeanor reflect a professional manner. Shows potential for responsible and accountable behavior by knowing and practicing within the scope of social work, respecting others, being punctual and dependable, prioritizing responsibilities, attending class regularly, observing deadlines, completing assignments on time, keeping appointments or making appropriate arrangements, and accepting

supervision and criticism in a positive manner.

Works effectively with others, regardless of level of authority. Advocates for him/herself in an appropriate and responsible manner and uses proper channels for conflict resolution. Shows a willingness to receive and accept feedback and supervision in a positive manner, as well as use such feedback to enhance professional development.

### **2.3.3 Self Awareness**

Shows awareness of self and how one is perceived by others. Reflects on one's own limitations as they relate to professional capacities. Is willing to examine and change behavior when it interferes in working with clients and other professionals.

The full 25 points will be awarded to students who **consistently attend, participate in class and contribute positively to the functioning of the class.** **Absence from more than two classes will result in the automatic loss of the entire 25 points, unless the instructor has been notified in advance (via text/e-mail) and approved the absence. Verification paperwork may be requested to validate/approve absence.**

### **Careers in CPS**

This is voluntary and will be discussed with those students who choose to remain immediately after the last class day is dismissed. The student is allowed the opportunity to become familiar with Texas Child Protective Service (CPS) website and the many careers available in CPS. To prepare, visit the website ([www.dfps.state.tx.us](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us)) prior to the last day of class and review the process for submitting employment applications. Check available job postings throughout the semester and print a job description that interest you. Bring the job description to the last class.

### **\*University Policies**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HONOR CODE.** The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND CIVILITY IN THE CLASSROOM.** The professor expects students to act as professionals in class. This means students should arrive on time for class, be prepared to participate in the class discussion, and show respect for one another's opinions. A course brings together a group of diverse individuals with various backgrounds. Students are influenced and shaped by such factors as ethnicity, gender, sex, physical abilities, religious and political beliefs, national origins, and sexual orientations, among others. We expect to learn from each other in an atmosphere of positive engagement and mutual respect. Social Work also deals with complex and controversial issues. These issues may be challenging and uncomfortable, and it would be impossible to offer a substantive classroom experience that did not include potentially difficult conversations relating to challenging issues. In this environment we will be exposed to diverse ideas and opinions, and sometimes we will not agree with the ideas expressed by others. Nevertheless, the professor requires that students engage one another with civility, respect, and professionalism.

**UNANTICIPATED DISTRESS.** Students may experience unexpected and/or distressing reactions to course readings, videos, conversations, and assignments. If so, students are encouraged to inform the professor. The professor can be responsive and supportive regarding students' participation in course assignments and activities, but students are responsible for communicating clearly what kind of support is desired. If counseling is needed, students may contact a service provider of their choosing, including the UT Counseling Center at 512-471-3515 or online at <https://cmhc.utexas.edu/>.

**POLICY ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION.** Public social networks are not private. Even when open only to approved or invited members, users cannot be certain that privacy will exist among the general membership of sites. If social work students choose to participate in such forums, please assume that anything posted can be seen, read, and critiqued. What is said, posted, linked to, commented on, uploaded, subscribed to, etc., can be accessed and archived, posing potential harm to professional reputations and prospective careers.

Social work students who use social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and other forms of electronic communication (i.e. blogs, etc.) must be mindful of how their communication may be perceived by clients, colleagues, faculty, and others. Social work students are expected to make every effort to minimize material which could be considered inappropriate for a professional social worker in training. Because of this, social work students are advised to manage security settings at their most private levels and avoid posting information/photos or using any language that could jeopardize their professional image.

Students are asked to consider the amount of personal information posted on these sites and are obliged to block any client access to involvement in the students' social networks. Client material should not be referred to in any form of electronic media, including *any* information that might lead to the identification of a client or compromise client confidentiality in *any* way. Additionally, students must critically evaluate any material that is posted regarding community agencies and professional relationships, as certain material could violate the standards set by the School of Social Work, the Texas Code of Conduct for Social Workers, and/or the NASW Code of Ethics.

Social work students should consider that they will be representing professional social work practice as well as The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work program while in the classroom, the university community, and the broader area communities.

**POLICY ON SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY.** Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

**USE OF COURSE MATERIALS.** The materials used in this course, including, but not limited to exams, quizzes, and homework assignments, are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized duplication of the course materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary action being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of course materials without the specific, express approval of the professor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This sharing includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of distributing those materials to other current or future students.



**DOCUMENTED DISABILITY STATEMENT.** Any student who requires special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471- 6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). A student should present the letter to the professor at the beginning of the semester so that needed accommodations can be discussed and followed. The student should remind the professor of any testing accommodations no later than five business days before an exam. For more information, visit: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS.** By UT Austin policy, students must notify the professor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, examination, work assignment, or project in order to observe a religious holy day, the professor will give the student an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**TITLE IX REPORTING.** In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University of Texas at Austin is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free from discriminatory conduct based on gender. Faculty, instructors, staff, and/or teaching assistants in their supervisory roles are mandated reporters of incidents of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, or sexual misconduct. Students who report such incidents will be informed of University resources. Incidents will be reported to the University's Title IX Coordinator and/or the Title IX Deputy for the SSW, Professor Tanya Voss. Students, faculty and staff may contact Professor Voss to report incidents or to obtain information. Further information, including student resources related to Title IX, may also be found at <http://socialwork.utexas.edu/dl/files/academic-programs/other/qrg-sexualharassment.pdf>.

**CAMPUS CARRY POLICY.** The University's policy on concealed fire arms may be found here: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu>. You also may find this information by accessing the Quick Links menu on the School's website.

**CLASSROOM CONFIDENTIALITY.** Information shared in class about agencies, clients, and personal matters is considered confidential per the NASW Code of Ethics on educational supervision and is protected by regulations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as well. As such, sharing this information with individuals outside of the educational context is not permitted. Violations of confidentiality could result in actions taken according to the policies and procedure for review of academic performance located in sections 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2 of the Standards for Social Work Education.

**USE OF E-MAIL FOR OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO STUDENTS.** Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students are responsible for keeping the university informed about a change of e-mail address. Students should check their e-mail regularly and frequently—daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-sensitive. Students can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating their e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

**SAFETY.** As part of professional social work education, students may have assignments that involve working in agency settings and/or the community. As such, these assignments may present some risks. Sound choices and caution may lower risks inherent to the profession. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to policies and practices related to agency and/or community safety. Students should notify the professor regarding any safety concerns.

**BEHAVIOR CONCERNS ADVICE LINE (BCAL).** If students are worried about someone who is acting differently, they may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone their concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership between the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION POLICY.** Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors in the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform the professor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the professor's instructions.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

#### **GRADING SCALE**

94.0 and Above	A
90.0 to 93.999	A-
87.0 to 89.999	B+
84.0 to 86.999	B
80.0 to 83.999	B-
77.0 to 79.999	C+
74.0 to 76.999	C
70.0 to 73.999	C-
67.0 to 69.999	D+
64.0 to 66.999	D
60.0 to 63.999	D-
Below 60.0	F

#### **VII. Course Schedule**

There may be adjustments to the schedule to accommodate the schedules of guest speakers.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Readings</u>
August 30th  Class 1	Course Overview  Introduction to Child Welfare & the Child Protection System  Child Welfare Values  Child & Parent's Rights  Historical Perspective of Child Maltreatment  Cultural Diversity	Crosson-Tower, The Maltreatment of Children from a Historical perspective. Chapters 1 & 2
September 6 <sup>th</sup>  Class 2	Physical Abuse of Children  Emotional Abuse	Crosson-Tower, The Physical abuse of children, Ch. 5.  Crosson-Tower, The Psychological Maltreatment of Children, Ch.9.
September 13 <sup>th</sup>  Class 3  <b>Group Member/Presentation Topic Assignments</b>	Neglectful Supervision, Physical Neglect, Abandonment, Refusal to Accept Parental Responsibility  Sexual Abuse	Crosson-Tower, The Neglect of Children, Ch.4.  Treatment: PHAB & NG, Ch. 12  Crosson-Tower, The Sexual Abuse of Children, Ch. 6.  Crosson-Tower, Incest: Familial Abuse, Ch.7 & Ch.8.
September 20 <sup>th</sup>  Class 4  <b>Topic Reflection Paper #1 Due/Importance of Parent/Child Visitation</b>	<b><u>Field Visit to:</u></b>  <b>Austin Children's Shelter</b>	6p.m. 4800 Manor Road Austin, Texas  Sara Reese, LMSW Director, Therapeutic Services
September 27 <sup>th</sup>  Class 5  <b>Agency Reflection Paper Due</b>	Stages of Service & Child Safety  Intake, Investigation, Reporting, Family-Based Safety Services, Sub-care/Conservatorship, Adoption, Disproportionality	Crosson-Tower, Intervention: Reporting and Investigation & Case Management Ch. 10.  The Legal Response to Child Abuse & Neglect, Chapter 11.

		<i>Guests/CPS Panel</i>
October 4 <sup>th</sup> Class 6	<b>Exam I</b>	
October 11 <sup>th</sup> Class 8	The Healing Neen Effects of Maltreatment & Trauma on Child Development Pt.	Maltreatment and the Developing Child, Ch. 3. Speaker: Family Therapist  Adults Abused as Children, Ch. 15
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Foster & Adoptive Services/ Permanency & Child Placement Permanency & Concurrent Planning, Service Planning	Crosson-Tower, Foster Care as a Therapeutic Tool, Ch. 14.
October 25 <sup>th</sup> Class 9 <i>Topic Reflection Paper #2 Due/Resiliency</i>	Kinship, Family Group Decision Making, Reunification, Visitation, Services, Assessment & Treatment	
November 1 <sup>st</sup> Class 10	Motivating CPS Families Youth Exiting Foster Care System	
November 8 <sup>th</sup> Class 11	<b>Adoption of Children from CPS</b> Placements, Foster Care, Adoption, Child Placing Agencies	<b><i>Professional Panel Presentation:</i></b> <i>Domestic Violence Survivor BACA (Bikers Against Child Abuse) CASA of Travis County</i>
November 15 <sup>th</sup> Class 12	<b>Transitional Living Services</b> <b>Texas Adoption &amp; Resource Exchange (TARE)</b>  <b><i>*Book Reflection Paper due</i></b>	<b>Speakers:</b> Fatherhood & Parent Program Specialist  Guest Speaker/Foster Parent Recruiter/Special Projects  Foster Youth Alumni
November 29 <sup>th</sup> Class 13	<b><i>Group Presentations:</i></b> <i>#1 Poverty, Neglect &amp; Child Maltreatment #2 Domestic Violence &amp; Child Maltreatment #3 Alcohol, Substance Abuse &amp; Child Maltreatment</i>	

December 6th  Class 14	<p><b>Group Presentations:</b>  #4 <i>Mental Health &amp; Child Maltreatment</i>  #5 <i>Safety &amp; Risk Assessments</i></p> <p><b>Final Exam</b></p>	
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**VIII. Bibliography**

Berry, M., Charleston, R., Dawson, K. (2003) Promising practices in understanding and treating child neglect. *Child & Family Social Work*, 8, pp13-24.

Crosson-Tower, C. (2005). *Understanding child abuse and neglect* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Data Book (2014). Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

*Deliberate Information Gathering*. (November 2006). Retrieved May 2011 from Action for Protection web site.

[http://www.actionchildprotection.org/PDF/Nov2006\\_Deliberate\\_Information\\_Gathering.pdf](http://www.actionchildprotection.org/PDF/Nov2006_Deliberate_Information_Gathering.pdf)

Helpful websites:

- <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us>
- <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>
- <http://www.childwelfare.gov/>
- <http://www.cwla.org/>
- <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/>
- <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/>
- <http://www.childtrends.org>
- <http://www.actionforchildprotection.org>
- [www.texprotects.org](http://www.texprotects.org)