



Children's Commission.

For Judges Handling Child Protective Services Cases

February 3, 2017

Reminder of Hands-on Trial Skills Training Opportunity; Deadline to Apply is Sunday 2/5/16

The Children's Commission will host a hands-on Trial Skills Training for less experienced attorneys handling CPS cases in Texas who want to improve their litigation skills. The course will be taught in San Marcos, Texas on May 8-10th, 2017. Space is limited to 21 attorneys who represent DFPS, parents, and/or children on CPS dockets. There is no fee to register. Additional information and the application can be found on the Children's Commission's website at this link: <http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/training/attorney-education/trial-skills-training.aspx>

Please forward this email to attorneys in your jurisdiction who may be interested in applying. The application deadline is midnight on this Sunday, February 5th, 2017.

The Children's Commission will contact each applicant's primary or referring judge to confirm the applicant's suitability for the training. Additionally, the Children's Commission also conducts evaluations of each Trial Skills Training event and this may include pre- and post-event contact with referring judges regarding changes in the Trial Skills Training participants' courtroom knowledge and skills, including but not limited to introducing evidence, making and responding to objections, etc. For questions or additional information, please contact us at children@txcourts.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

New Resources for Parent and Parent Advocates: The Family Helpline and Spanish Version of the Children's Commission's Parent Resource Guide

On January 31, 2017, the Texas Legal Services Center (TLSC) launched The Family Helpline to assist parents with CPS legal issues. The Family Helpline is staffed by experienced attorneys who will refer to pertinent portions of the Children's Commission's Parent Resource Guide while offering callers live support in a one-on-one exchange. TLSC will employ attorneys with CPS case experience who will offer callers legal information and education, but not offer legal advice or establish an attorney-client relationship with the caller. The CPS process will be explained to callers in concrete, easy to understand, and compassionate language. Parents will be given referrals to local resources that benefit children, families, and the community at large.

The Family Helpline Hours are Monday – Friday, 9 am to 6 pm; the phone number is: 844-888-6565.

Additionally, the Children's Commission is excited to announce that a Spanish language version of the Parent Resource Guide is now available on Lawbox and as a pdf on our website. Just like the English version, the Lawbox Spanish language Parent Resource Guide is mobile friendly and searchable. Both the English and Spanish versions are designed to help educate parents about the CPS process, their role and responsibilities, and the responsibilities and duties owed to them by others. Both versions are available at the following links:

<http://parentresourceguide.texaschildrenscommission.gov/espanol>
<http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/media/1149/Final-Online-PDF.pdf>

Please feel free to share this announcement and these links with attorneys, parents, caregivers, CASA volunteers, and anyone else who might benefit from this resource.



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For a complete list of Jurist in Residence Letters, please visit: <http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/jir/jir-letters.aspx>

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