

Harris County Civil District Courts Standards and Procedures for the Appointment of Attorneys Ad Litem

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature passed and the Governor signed Senate Bill 1369¹ (the "Act") relating to the appointment of attorneys ad litem;

WHEREAS, the Act requires the local administrative judge to establish and maintain a list of all attorneys qualified to serve as an attorney ad litem;

WHEREAS, the Act requires that the list contain the names of all attorneys who: (1) meet any statutory or other requirements to serve as an attorney ad litem; and (2) have registered to serve as attorney ad litem;

WHEREAS, all divisions other than the Civil Division have opted not to utilize an Attorney Ad Litem list as permitted by the Texas Government Code section 74.098(b); and

WHEREAS, the Harris County Civil District Judges hereby adopt the following Standards and Procedures for the Appointments of Attorneys Ad Litem.

- 1.0 Definitions.** The following terms and phrases will have the following meanings.
- 1.1.** The Administrative Judge means the Administrative Judge of Harris County elected pursuant to Rule 9 of the Harris County District Judges Rules of Administration.
 - 1.2.** Harris County Civil Board of Judges means the board as defined in Rule 9.1.3 of the Harris County District Judges Rules of Administration.
- 2.0 Creation of Attorney Ad Litem List.**
- 2.1.** The Administrative Judge will maintain a list of qualified Attorneys Ad Litem for the Civil Division of the Harris County District Courts (the "List").
 - 2.2.** Attorneys wishing to be appointed as an Attorney Ad Litem shall apply with the Administrative Judge.
 - 2.3.** Qualifications for Attorney Ad Litem for the Civil Division. Attorneys wishing to be on the List must verify in their application that they satisfy the following qualifications:
 - 2.3.1.** Be licensed by and in good standing with the State Bar of Texas for at least one year preceding the initial application. An attorney who has received a public reprimand is disqualified from inclusion on the List for one year following the reprimand. An attorney who received a suspension or disbarment is disqualified from inclusion on the List for one year following reinstatement in good standing by the State Bar;

¹ Now codified at TEX. GOV'T CODE § 74.092(a)(11), (b).

- 2.3.2. Exhibit proficiency and a commitment to providing quality representation to clients in civil cases;
 - 2.3.3. Demonstrate professionalism and reliability when providing representation to clients in civil cases; and
 - 2.3.4. Have taken at least three hours of CLE within the past two years regarding service as an Attorney Ad Litem.
- 2.4. The Harris County Civil Board of Judges will vote annually to approve the List at its December meeting. The approved List shall be effective January 1st of the following calendar year.
- 3.0 **Utilization of Attorney Ad Litem list.** All judges and tax masters from the Civil Division must utilize the List. Any judge in that division must appoint the person who is number one on the List. When someone is appointed an Attorney Ad Litem by any judge or tax master in the Civil Division, that person is then placed at the bottom of the List.
- 4.0 **Removal from Attorney Ad Litem list.** A majority of the Harris County Civil Board of Judges may remove someone from the List. An attorney may be removed from the List if he or she fails to perform the duties as an Attorney Ad Litem or fails to satisfy the requirements herein.

Approved October 6, 2009. Amended October 7, 2014.