



Children's Commission

Attorney Resource Letter:

For Attorneys Handling Child Protective Services Cases

March 13, 2018

Legal Representation Survey

The Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission is implementing a comprehensive study of the legal representation provided to parents and children in child protection cases. The goal of the study is to capture the most accurate picture possible of how legal representation of parents and children in CPS cases is currently functioning across the state and how it might be improved. To meet this goal, the study will survey key stakeholders, including attorneys, regarding their experiences and their perspectives on the legal representation provided to parents and children. A report of the study's findings will be delivered to the Texas Legislature in September, 2018.

Attorneys who represent parents and children in CPS cases have a front line view of how the legal representation system is working and the attorney surveys are designed to take advantage of that experience. The attorney surveys seek to quantify what barriers attorneys experience in providing quality representation, and how attorneys' experiences inform their views on the possibilities for systemic change.

The surveys are now open and will close March 30, 2018. The surveys can be taken online anytime until midnight on Friday, March 30, 2018. Answers will be anonymous and the survey will not collect any identifying information (including IP addresses) about the attorneys, the judges, the parents, or the children involved.

The surveys have been tailored to capture the different roles and perspectives which attorneys have in the child welfare system. There is one survey designed for court-appointed attorneys, one for attorneys representing DFPS, and one for attorney-mediators.

Please click on the following link to complete the survey that best describes your practice: <http://bit.ly/CC-LRS-Professionals-Survey>

In addition, if you know of colleagues who may not receive this email but who meet any of the above criteria, we encourage you to share this email with them.

If you should have any questions about the surveys, please email children@txcourts.gov. Thank you for your time and for everything you do on behalf of Texas children and families in the child welfare system.



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