



# Children's Commission.

## Attorney Resource Letter:

### For Attorneys Handling Child Protective Services Cases

April 6, 2018

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## Deadlines Extended to Apply for July 2018 Trial Skills Training and to Submit Your Response to Legal Representation Survey

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### Hands-On Trial Skills Opportunity Applications Due Wednesday April 11, 2018

Designed for less experienced attorneys handling CPS cases who want to improve their litigation skills, the Children's Commission's annual Trial Skills Training will be taught in San Marcos, Texas on July 25-27th, 2018. Space is limited to 21 attorneys who represent DFPS, parents, and/or children on CPS dockets. For purposes of the training, "less experienced" means that prior to applying to the Trial Skills Training, applicants who represent children and parents will have completed two to three contested Adversary Hearings and/or two to three final termination trials as first chair, and applicants who represent DFPS will have completed at least three contested Adversary Hearings and/or three to five final termination trials as first chair.

The extended application deadline is **midnight on Wednesday, April 11, 2018**. This will be the only opportunity to attend this hands-on opportunity this year. For more information and to submit an application for the training, please visit the [Trial Skills Training webpage](#).

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### Parent, Parent Attorney, and Ad Litem Surveys Due Friday April 13, 2018

The 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.

The Commission has decided to extend the survey deadline to allow for as many attorney responses as possible, in order for parent and ad litem attorneys' opinions to be properly represented in our report to the Texas Legislature. If you have not yet completed the survey, please do so at the following: <http://bit.ly/CC-LRS-Professionals-Survey>. The new survey deadline is **midnight on Friday, April 13, 2018**.

In addition, please consider making parents and relatives aware of their ability to participate in this study regarding the state of parent and ad litem representation in Texas. Flyers are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) to announce the surveys to parents and relatives, both online and attached to this message. The flyer explains the nature and purpose of the study and how to access the surveys. We are not asking attorneys to present the survey to their clients, but instead to please post or distribute the flyers at places where parents and relatives are likely to see them: courthouses, CPS offices, parenting classes, etc.

If you should have any questions about the Trial Skills Training or about any of the surveys, please email [children@txcourts.gov](mailto: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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