

Qualifications for Appointed Attorneys
Chapter 37 Texas Family Code
300th District Court

Minimum Qualifications for Appointment as Attorney ad Litem, Amicus, Guardian ad Litem, Mediator-

Basic Requirements for all attorneys:

- Member in good standing with the State Bar of Texas;
- Person of good moral character;
- Practice in Brazoria County;
- Complete a minimum of 15 hours of certified CLE credits annually, with 10 in Family Law/Ad Litem Attorney Appointment area. During the first year of qualification (2015) the Court will accept 10 hours accrued over the preceding two-year period (2014 and 2015). Beginning September 1, 2016 and forward, the Court will require 10 hours each year. No self-study hours will be accepted. Proof of the CLE credit hours will be satisfied by providing verification directly to the 300th District Court on an annual basis. The deadline each year will be September 1st, except for the year 2015, wherein the deadline will be extended to November 30, 2015. A verification/compliance form will be available for attorneys in the offices of the 300th District Court, the internet website for the 300th District Court or the internet website for the Brazoria County District Clerk's Office.

Appointed Attorney for Indigent Party/Attorney ad Litem/Guardian ad Litem qualifications:

- Basic requirements set out above;
- Provide proof of certification as an "Approved Guardian ad Litem/Attorney ad Litem" with the State Bar of Texas;
- Register with the 300th District Court (the Court will accept letters or emails from attorneys specifically outlining the attorney's request for appointment e.g., request for appointment as Attorney for Indigent party, AAL, GAL, AG indigent enforcement docket, Amicus, Appeals, and/or Termination cases);
- Have at least one (1) year experience practicing in Family Law or CPS cases in Brazoria County;
- To be appointed as Attorney for Indigent party in Termination cases or as AAL/GAL in Termination cases, have at least three (3) years experience in Family Law/CPS litigation involving Brazoria County cases, have at least ten (10) contested hearings on the CPS docket, and have one (1) trial on the

merits (bench or jury trial) as first chair within the last three (3) years, or three (3) trials on the merits as second chair;

- To be appointed in Non-termination cases/ Orders to Participate CPS cases, have at least ten (10) hearings on the CPS docket within the last two (2) years and have at least two (2) years experience in Family Law/CPS litigation involving Brazoria County cases;
- To be appointed on Appeals, have at least three (3) appeals as lead counsel and have at least three (3) years experience in Family Law/CPS litigation involving Brazoria County cases;
- To be appointed as Amicus Attorney, have at least three (3) years experience in Family Law/CPS litigation involving Brazoria County cases and have at least ten (10) custody case hearings on Temporary Orders or five (5) trials on the merits with custody as a contested issue, with the hearings/trials to have occurred within the past three (3) years;
- To be appointed on Attorney General Enforcement docket, meet basic requirements above and practice in Brazoria County.

Mediators:

- Basic requirements set out above;
- Qualify under Chapter 154.052 Civil Practice and Remedies Code for Family and parent-child relationship disputes (minimum requirement of 40 hours classroom time in dispute resolution AND additional 24 hours classroom time in fields of family dynamics, child development and family law);
- Have at least three (3) years practice experience in Family Law/CPS litigation in Brazoria County, Texas; and
- Minimum five (5) mediations involving Brazoria County cases.