

By: Menéndez, et al.

S.B. No. 2933

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to judicial training requirements regarding elder abuse and neglect.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 22.110, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 22.110. JUDICIAL INSTRUCTION RELATED TO FAMILY VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS, AND CHILD AND ELDER ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

SECTION 2. Sections 22.110(a), (b), and (d), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The court of criminal appeals shall assure that judicial training related to the problems of family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of persons, ~~[and]~~ child abuse and neglect, and elder abuse and neglect is provided.

(b) The court of criminal appeals shall adopt the rules necessary to accomplish the purposes of this section. The rules must require:

(1) each district judge, judge of a statutory county court, associate judge appointed under Chapter 54A of this code or Chapter 201, Family Code, master, referee, and magistrate within the judge's first term of office or the judicial officer's first four years of service to complete and provide certification of completion of 12 hours of training that include at least:

1 (A) four hours dedicated to issues related to
2 trafficking of persons, ~~[and]~~ child abuse and neglect, and elder
3 abuse and neglect that cover at least two of the topics described in
4 Subsections (d)(8) through (12) and (d)(14) ~~[(d)(8)-(12)]~~;

5 (B) six hours dedicated to the training described
6 by Subsections (d)(5), (6), and (7); and

7 (C) one hour dedicated to the training described
8 by Subsection (d)(13);

9 (2) each judge and judicial officer during each
10 additional term in office or four years of service to complete and
11 provide certification of completion of an additional five hours of
12 training that include at least:

13 (A) two hours dedicated to the training described
14 by Subsections (d)(11) and (12); and

15 (B) one hour dedicated to the training described
16 by Subsection (d)(13); and

17 (3) each judge of a court with primary responsibility
18 for family law or family violence matters to complete and provide
19 certification of completion of an additional hour of training
20 described by Subsection (d)(13) every two years.

21 (d) The instruction must include information about:

22 (1) statutory and case law relating to videotaping a
23 child's testimony and relating to competency of children to
24 testify;

25 (2) methods for eliminating the trauma to the child
26 caused by the court process;

27 (3) case law, statutory law, and procedural rules

1 relating to family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of
2 persons, and child abuse and neglect;

3 (4) methods for providing protection for victims of
4 family violence, sexual assault, trafficking of persons, and child
5 abuse and neglect;

6 (5) available community and state resources for
7 counseling and other aid to victims and to offenders;

8 (6) gender bias in the judicial process;

9 (7) dynamics and effects of being a victim of sexual
10 assault, trafficking of persons, or child abuse and neglect;

11 (8) dynamics of sexual abuse of children, including
12 child abuse accommodation syndrome and grooming;

13 (9) impact of substance abuse on an unborn child and on
14 a person's ability to care for a child;

15 (10) issues of attachment and bonding between children
16 and caregivers;

17 (11) issues of child development that pertain to
18 trafficking of persons and child abuse and neglect;

19 (12) medical findings regarding physical abuse,
20 sexual abuse, trafficking of persons, and child abuse and neglect;

21 [~~and~~]

22 (13) dynamics of family violence; and

23 (14) elder abuse and neglect.

24 SECTION 3. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
25 date of this Act, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals shall adopt
26 the rules necessary to implement Section 22.110, Government Code,
27 as amended by this Act.

1 (b) Section 22.110, Government Code, as amended by this Act,
2 applies to all judges, masters, referees, and magistrates elected,
3 appointed, or holding office on or after the effective date of this
4 Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.