

By: Farrar

H.B. No. 1903

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to testimony regarding parental alienation syndrome in a  
3 suit regarding the conservatorship of, or the possession of or  
4 access to, a child.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 104, Family Code, is amended by adding  
7 Section 104.007 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 104.007. TESTIMONY REGARDING PARENTAL ALIENATION  
9 SYNDROME. In a suit regarding the conservatorship of, or the  
10 possession of or access to, a child, the court may allow testimony  
11 regarding parental alienation syndrome only if:

12 (1) the syndrome is recognized as a valid medical or  
13 psychiatric condition in the most recent Diagnostic and Statistical  
14 Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric  
15 Association; and

16 (2) the testimony is admissible under Rule 702, Texas  
17 Rules of Evidence.

18 SECTION 2. Section 104.007, Family Code, as added by this  
19 Act, applies only to a suit regarding the conservatorship of, or the  
20 possession of or access to, a child filed on or after the effective  
21 date of this Act. A suit filed before the effective date of this Act  
22 is governed by the law in effect on the date the suit was filed, and  
23 the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.