

Amend CSHB 3723 (house committee report) as follows:

(1) On page 2, strike lines 3 through 26 and substitute the following:

court designated under Subsection (h) as the domestic violence district court shall give preference to domestic violence cases, including cases involving:

(1) dating violence, as defined by Section 71.0021, Family Code; and

(2) family violence, as defined by Section 71.004, Family Code.

(j) For the purposes of determining the preference the designated domestic violence district court is required to give cases under Subsection (i):

(1) a domestic violence case means:

(A) an original application for a protective order under Title 4, Family Code;

(B) an original application for a protective order under Title 4, Family Code, that involves both parties and is filed concurrently with an original petition under the Family Code; and

(C) any matter involving custody of a minor child if one parent is alleged to have caused the death of another parent and there is a history of domestic violence in the parents' relationship; and

(2) subject to judicial discretion and resources, the designated domestic violence district court may also hear divorce and custody cases in which:

(A) a court has made an affirmative finding of family violence involving both parties; or

(B) a protective order has been issued under Title 4, Family Code, involving both parties.

(k) The designated domestic violence district court shall:

(2) On page 3, strike lines 10 through 18, and substitute the following:

(1) The Harris County district clerk shall create a form and establish procedures to transfer a domestic violence case that qualifies for preference under this section to the domestic

violence district court.

SECTION 2. Not later than October 1, 2009, the judges of the district courts listed in Section 24.112(g), Government Code, as added by this Act, shall by agreement designate a listed court as the domestic violence district court for Harris County. If the judges fail to designate a domestic violence district court on or before October 1, 2009, the local administrative judge for the Harris County district courts shall designate a domestic violence district court not later than October 5, 2009.