

AN ACT

relating to posttrial psychological counseling for jurors in a criminal trial or juvenile adjudication hearing involving graphic evidence or testimony.

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

SECTION 1. Article 56.04(f), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(f) The commissioners court may approve a program in which the crime victim liaison or victim assistance coordinator may offer not more than 10 hours of posttrial psychological counseling for a person who serves as a juror or an alternate juror in a criminal ~~[the] trial [of an offense under Section 19.02, 19.03, 21.11, 22.011, 22.021, 43.05, 43.25, or 43.251, Penal Code,]~~ involving graphic evidence or testimony and who requests the posttrial psychological counseling not later than the 180th day after the date on which the jury in the trial is dismissed. The crime victim liaison or victim assistance coordinator may provide the counseling using a provider that assists local criminal justice agencies in providing similar services to victims.

SECTION 2. The heading to Section 57.003, Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 57.003. DUTIES ~~[DUTY]~~ OF JUVENILE BOARD AND VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR.

SECTION 3. Section 57.003, Family Code, is amended by

adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) The juvenile board, with the approval of the commissioners court of the county, may approve a program in which the victim assistance coordinator may offer not more than 10 hours of posttrial psychological counseling for a person who serves as a juror or an alternate juror in an adjudication hearing involving graphic evidence or testimony and who requests the posttrial psychological counseling not later than the 180th day after the date on which the jury in the adjudication hearing is dismissed. The victim assistance coordinator may provide the counseling using a provider that assists local juvenile justice agencies in providing similar services to victims.

SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a criminal trial or juvenile adjudication hearing for which a jury is selected on or after the effective date of this Act. A criminal trial or juvenile adjudication hearing for which a jury is selected before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law as it existed immediately before that date, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 608 was passed by the House on April 21, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 5, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 608 was passed by the Senate on May 12, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor