

By: Naishtat

H.B. No. 611

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to requirements applicable to an attorney ad litem
3 appointed to represent a parent in a child protective services
4 case.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 107.013, Family Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsections (e) and (f) to read as follows:

8 (e) An attorney ad litem appointed for a parent under this
9 section shall complete at least three hours of continuing legal
10 education relating to representing parents in child abuse and
11 neglect cases as soon as practicable after the attorney ad litem's
12 appointment. An attorney ad litem is not required to comply with
13 this subsection if the court finds that the attorney ad litem has
14 experience equivalent to the required education.

15 (f) An attorney ad litem appointed for a parent shall become
16 familiar with the American Bar Association's standards of practice
17 for attorneys who represent parents in abuse and neglect cases.

18 SECTION 2. Sections 107.013(e) and (f), Family Code, as
19 added by this Act, apply to a suit affecting the parent-child
20 relationship filed on or after the effective date of this Act. A
21 suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed before the
22 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the
23 date the suit was filed, and the former law is continued in effect
24 for that purpose.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.