

By: Wu

H.B. No. 690

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a best practices guide for persons involved in child protective services cases.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 40.0529 to read as follows:

Sec. 40.0529. BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES CASES. (a) The department shall develop a best practices guide to establish uniform practices in child protective services cases across this state. The guide must:

(1) describe the different stages of a child protective services case, including intake, initial investigation, assessment of the child and family, case planning, court proceedings, case management services, and case closure;

(2) describe the roles and responsibilities of the persons involved in each stage identified in Subdivision (1); and

(3) include definitions of commonly used terms, model timelines and procedural flowcharts for the most common child protective services cases, and a list by area of services available to children and parents.

(b) The department shall design the best practices guide to assist:

(1) an attorney representing a child or parent in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed by the

1 department;

2 (2) a judge presiding over a case described in
3 Subdivision (1);

4 (3) a guardian ad litem representing a child in a case
5 described by Subdivision (1);

6 (4) a child protective services caseworker or
7 investigator; and

8 (5) any other individual involved in a child
9 protective services case that the department determines would
10 benefit from the best practices guide.

11 (c) The department shall make the best practices guide
12 available on the department's Internet website.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.