86R10755 ADM-D

By:  Bowers H.B. No. 2027

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to information given to a child and the child's parent, guardian, or custodian regarding the sealing of juvenile records.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 58.262, Family Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsections (a-1), (b-1), and (e) to read as follows:

(a)  When a child is referred to the juvenile probation department, an employee of the juvenile probation department shall give the child and the child's parent, guardian, or custodian:

(1)  a written explanation describing the process of sealing records under this subchapter and a copy of this subchapter; and

(2)  a list of local resources that may assist the child in applying to have the child's records sealed, including attorneys who, at low or no cost, represent persons in applying for the sealing of juvenile records.

(a-1)  At the time an employee of the juvenile probation department gives a written explanation under Subsection (a), the employee shall additionally provide an oral explanation of the process of sealing records to the child and the child's parent, guardian, or custodian and allow any of those persons to ask questions regarding the process.

(b)  On the final discharge of a child, or on the last official action in the matter if there is no adjudication, a probation officer or official at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, as appropriate, shall give the child and the child's parent, guardian, or custodian:

(1)  a written explanation regarding the eligibility of the child's records for sealing under this subchapter and a copy of this subchapter; and

(2)  a list of local resources that may assist the child in applying to have the child's records sealed, including attorneys who, at low or no cost, represent persons in applying for the sealing of juvenile records.

(b-1)  At the time a probation officer or official at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department gives a written explanation under Subsection (b), the officer or official shall additionally provide an oral explanation of the eligibility of the child's records for sealing to the child and the child's parent, guardian, or custodian and allow any of those persons to ask questions regarding the child's eligibility and the process of having records sealed.

(e)  The Texas Juvenile Justice Department shall publish on the department's Internet website a brochure that describes the process of sealing records under this subchapter and that lists resources that may assist a child in applying to seal the child's records.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.