

By: Howard

H.B. No. 1907

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to training for certain individuals who provide care for
3 or services to children in the conservatorship of the Department of
4 Family and Protective Services.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 264.015, Family Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

8 (d) The department shall, in consultation with current
9 foster parents and adoptive parents, develop a training program for
10 foster parents, adoptive parents, and kinship caregivers regarding
11 the best methods of communicating with children in the
12 conservatorship of the department about issues regarding health and
13 well-being, including:

14 (1) self-image;

15 (2) relationships;

16 (3) goal setting;

17 (4) planning and decision making; and

18 (5) protection from sexually transmitted infections,
19 unintended pregnancy, and exploitation.

20 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 264, Family Code, is
21 amended by adding Section 264.0151 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 264.0151. TRAINING MATERIALS FOR GUARDIANS AD LITEM,
23 ATTORNEYS AD LITEM, AND JUDGES. The department shall, in
24 consultation with current guardians ad litem, attorneys ad litem,

1 and the Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for
2 Children, Youth and Families, develop training materials for
3 guardians ad litem, attorneys ad litem, and judges who represent or
4 preside over cases involving children and youth in the
5 conservatorship of the department concerning the health and
6 well-being of those children and youth, including:

- 7 (1) policies regarding consent by a minor;
8 (2) general health information;
9 (3) information on healthy relationships; and
10 (4) information on advocating for or representing
11 pregnant and parenting children and youth.

12 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 40, Human Resources Code,
13 is amended by adding Section 40.036 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 40.036. CASEWORKER TRAINING ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH.
15 The department shall create a training program for child protective
16 services caseworkers to provide instruction to the caseworkers on
17 age-appropriate, trauma-informed methods of communicating with
18 children in the managing conservatorship of the department
19 regarding reproductive health and healthy relationships. The
20 training program must include best practices for:

- 21 (1) providing information to a child about consent to
22 sexual activity, including the legal age for consent under state
23 law;
24 (2) preserving confidentiality; and
25 (3) providing services to a child who becomes pregnant
26 or who is a minor parent.

27 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.