

1-1 By: Miller, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Huffman) H.B. No. 1916
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 9, 2019;
1-3 May 10, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on State
1-4 Affairs; May 19, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 8, Nays 1; May 19, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Huffman	X			
1-8 Hughes	X			
1-9 Birdwell		X		
1-10 Creighton	X			
1-11 Fallon	X			
1-12 Hall	X			
1-13 Lucio	X			
1-14 Nelson	X			
1-15 Zaffirini	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to requiring trauma training for certain attorneys.

1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-21 SECTION 1. Section 107.004, Family Code, is amended by
1-22 amending Subsection (b-1) and adding Subsections (b-2), (b-3), and
1-23 (b-4) to read as follows:

1-24 (b-1) An attorney who is on the list maintained by the court
1-25 as being qualified for appointment as an attorney ad litem for a
1-26 child in a child protection case must:

1-27 (1) complete at least three hours of continuing legal
1-28 education relating to the representation of a child in a proceeding
1-29 under Subtitle E each year before the anniversary date of the
1-30 attorney's listing; and

1-31 (2) provide proof that the attorney has completed a
1-32 training program regarding trauma-informed care and the effect of
1-33 trauma on children in the conservatorship of the Department of
1-34 Family and Protective Services.

1-35 (b-2) The training described by Subsection (b-1)(2) may
1-36 satisfy the training requirement under Subsection (b-1)(1) in a
1-37 year in which an attorney completes the training.

1-38 (b-3) An attorney described by Subsection (b-1) shall
1-39 complete the training required by Subsection (b-1)(2) as soon as
1-40 practicable after the attorney is placed on the list described by
1-41 Subsection (b-1).

1-42 (b-4) The training required by Subsection (b-1)(2) must be
1-43 designed to educate an attorney regarding the attorney's duty under
1-44 Subsection (d-3) and include information regarding:

1-45 (1) the symptoms of trauma and the impact that trauma
1-46 has on a child, including how trauma may affect a child's
1-47 development, emotions, memories, behavior, and decision-making;

1-48 (2) attachment and how a lack of attachment may affect
1-49 a child;

1-50 (3) the role that trauma-informed care and services
1-51 can have in a child's ability to build connections, feel safe, and
1-52 regulate the child's emotions to help the child build resiliency
1-53 and overcome the effects of trauma and adverse childhood
1-54 experiences;

1-55 (4) the importance of screening children for trauma
1-56 and the risk of mislabeling and inappropriate treatment of children
1-57 without proper screening, including the risk associated with
1-58 increasing the use of psychotropic medication;

1-59 (5) the potential for re-traumatization of children in
1-60 the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective
1-61 Services; and

(6) the availability of:
(A) research-supported, trauma-informed,
non-pharmacological interventions; and
(B) trauma-informed advocacy to increase a
child's access, while the child is in the conservatorship of the
Department of Family and Protective Services, to:
(i) trauma-informed care; and
(ii) trauma-informed mental and behavioral
health services.

SECTION 2. An attorney who is on the list maintained by a court as being qualified for appointment as an attorney ad litem for a child in a child protection case on the effective date of this Act shall complete the training required by Section [107.004\(b-1\)\(2\)](#), Family Code, as added by this Act, not later than September 1, 2020.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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