

By: Metcalf

H.B. No. 454

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a specialty treatment court for certain individuals residing with a child who is the subject of a juvenile court case.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle K, Title 2, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 130 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 130. JUVENILE FAMILY DRUG COURT PROGRAM

Sec. 130.001. JUVENILE FAMILY DRUG COURT PROGRAM

DEFINED. In this chapter, "juvenile family drug court program" means a program that has the following essential characteristics:

(1) the integration of substance abuse treatment services in the processing of cases and proceedings under Title 3, Family Code;

(2) the use of a comprehensive case management approach involving court-appointed case managers and court-appointed special advocates to rehabilitate an individual who is suspected of substance abuse and who resides with a child who is the subject of a case filed under Title 3, Family Code;

(3) early identification and prompt placement of eligible individuals who volunteer to participate in the program;

(4) comprehensive substance abuse needs assessment and referrals to appropriate substance abuse treatment agencies for participants;

1           (5) a progressive treatment approach with specific  
2 requirements for participants to meet for successful completion of  
3 the program;

4           (6) monitoring of abstinence through periodic  
5 screening for alcohol or screening for controlled substances;

6           (7) ongoing judicial interaction with program  
7 participants;

8           (8) monitoring and evaluation of program goals and  
9 effectiveness;

10           (9) continuing interdisciplinary education for the  
11 promotion of effective program planning, implementation, and  
12 operation; and

13           (10) development of partnerships with public agencies  
14 and community organizations.

15           Sec. 130.002. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH PROGRAM. The  
16 commissioners court of a county may establish a juvenile family  
17 drug court program for individuals who:

18           (1) are suspected by the Department of Family and  
19 Protective Services or the court of having a substance abuse  
20 problem; and

21           (2) reside in the home of a child who is the subject of  
22 a case filed under Title 3, Family Code.

23           Sec. 130.003. PARTICIPANT PAYMENT FOR TREATMENT AND  
24 SERVICES. A juvenile family drug court program may require a  
25 participant to pay the cost of all treatment and services received  
26 while participating in the program, based on the participant's  
27 ability to pay.

1       Sec. 130.004. FUNDING. A county that creates a juvenile  
2 family drug court under this chapter shall explore the possibility  
3 of using court improvement project money to finance the juvenile  
4 family drug court in the county. The county also shall explore the  
5 availability of federal and state matching money to finance the  
6 court.

7       SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.