

By: Campos

H.B. No. 2454

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to mandatory family violence training for attorneys ad  
3 litem and guardians ad litem appointed in a suit affecting the  
4 parent-child relationship.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 107, Family Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 107.0041 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 107.0041. MANDATORY FAMILY VIOLENCE TRAINING. (a) As  
9 soon as practicable after appointment, a guardian ad litem or  
10 attorney ad litem appointed for a child in a suit affecting the  
11 parent-child relationship shall complete at least three hours of  
12 family violence training approved by the Department of Family and  
13 Protective Services.

14 (b) The Department of Family and Protective Services shall  
15 collaborate with a statewide family violence advocacy organization  
16 to develop the training required under Subsection (a).

17 SECTION 2. Section 107.0045, Family Code, is amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 Sec. 107.0045. DISCIPLINE OF ATTORNEY AD LITEM. An  
20 attorney ad litem who fails to perform the duties required by  
21 Sections 107.003, ~~and~~ 107.004, and 107.0041 is subject to  
22 disciplinary action under Subchapter E, Chapter 81, Government  
23 Code.

24 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies only

1 to a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed on or after  
2 the effective date of this Act. A suit affecting the parent-child  
3 relationship filed before that date is governed by the law in effect  
4 on the date the suit was filed, and that law is continued in effect  
5 for that purpose.

6 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.