

By: Neave

H.B. No. 3962

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the powers and duties of a domestic relations office.

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

SECTION 1. Section 203.004(a), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 203.004. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) A domestic relations office may:

(1) collect and disburse child support payments that are ordered by a court to be paid through a domestic relations registry;

(2) maintain records of payments and disbursements made under Subdivision (1);

(3) file a suit under this title, including a suit to:

(A) establish paternity; and

(B) enforce, clarify or modify a court order for child support or for possession of and access to a child; ~~and~~

~~(C) modify or clarify an existing child support order;~~

(4) provide an informal forum in which alternative dispute resolution is used to resolve disputes under this code;

(5) prepare a court-ordered child custody evaluation or adoption evaluation under Chapter 107;

(6) represent a child as an amicus attorney, an attorney ad litem, or a guardian ad litem in a suit in which:

1 (A) termination of the parent-child relationship
2 is sought; or

3 (B) conservatorship of or access to a child is
4 contested;

5 (7) serve as a friend of the court;

6 (8) provide predivorce counseling ordered by a court;

7 (9) provide community supervision services under
8 Chapter 157;

9 (10) provide information to assist a party in
10 understanding, complying with, or enforcing the party's duties and
11 obligations under this Code ~~Subdivision (3)~~;

12 (11) provide, directly or through a contract,
13 visitation services, including supervision of court-ordered
14 visitation, visitation exchange, or other similar services;

15 (12) issue an administrative writ of withholding under
16 Subchapter F, Chapter 158; and

17 (13) provide parenting coordination services under
18 Chapter 153.

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