



Children's Commission.

Attorney Resource Letter:

For Attorneys Handling Child Protective Services Cases

June 16, 2017

Announcing: Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS) Child Welfare Law Certification Exam

On February 14, 2017, the Supreme Court of Texas officially recognized Child Welfare Law as the 20th area of certified legal specialization through the Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS).

For Texas attorneys interested in becoming Board Certified in Child Welfare Law, there are two important dates to note. In February of 2018, the TBLS will begin accepting applications from attorneys who wish to take the exam and become certified. In October of 2018, TBLS will administer the first ever Child Welfare Law Certification exam.

To apply for certification, attorneys will need to have completed the following requirements within the three years preceding their application:

- Devoted 25% of their practice to child welfare law;
- Served as lead counsel on ten cases at trial, a contested evidentiary hearing, or appeal; and
- Participated in twenty additional cases as lead counsel or appellate counsel.

The application will also require references from four attorneys and one judge familiar with the attorney's work in child welfare.

The complete application requirements can be found on the Supreme Court of Texas' website, available at the following link: <http://www.txcourts.gov/media/1437204/179014.pdf>

More information about the application and exam will be provided as soon as it becomes available.



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