

**CHILD PROTECTION CASES TRAINING
FOR ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING PARENTS
JUDGE CHRIS CORNISH
JUDGE DALLAS SIMS**

A view from the Bench regarding the requirements for representing parents in CPS cases filed in the Centex Child Protection Courts under the Texas Family Code. Topics shall include duties and responsibilities of court appointed attorneys during the following stages of representation:

1. ADVERSARY HEARING (SHOW CAUSE)
 - a. Appointment in the Emergency Order of Protection
 - b. Responsive Pleadings (when to file)
 - c. Required Preparation for the Hearing/Scheduling/Continuances
2. FAMILY GROUP AND PERMANENCY CONFERENCE
 - a. Required Attendance/Availability
 - b. Concerns regarding client communications and documents developed and executed during meetings with the Department
3. STATUS HEARING
 - a. Statutory Limitations of Hearing Scope
 - b. Services Offered and Alternatives
4. PERMANENCY HEARING
 - a. Responsive Pleadings
 - b. Hearing Scope
5. SUBSEQUENT PERMANENCY HEARING
 - a. Jury Request Deadline
 - b. Responsive Pleadings/Requests for Extension
6. FINAL HEARING AND POST TRIAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN APPOINTED FOR PARENTS SERVED BY PUBLICATION
 - a. Required Report
 - b. Due Dilligence
8. ATTORNEY FEE VOUCHERS and ENGAGEMENT LETTERS
9. BELL COUNTY STANDING ORDERS AND DISCOVERY