

STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION

of the

TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL

**Supporting Texas Family Code Amendments Related to
Indigent Parents Involved in Child Protective Services Cases**

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council is the policymaking body for the Texas Judicial Branch, created under Chapter 71, Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Council is charged with improving the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, Texas counties are responsible for providing legal representation through the appointment of attorneys ad litem to represent parents and children in Child Protective Services cases; and

WHEREAS, counties must possess the discretion to meet the demand for court appointed attorneys in a manner most beneficial to the county; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Family Code should be amended and Sections 107.019 and 107.0191 added in order to provide for the creation and oversight of county or regional offices of parent or child representation to provide legal representation and services to a child, an indigent parent or an alleged father in a suit seeking conservatorship of a child or termination of parental rights; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Family Code should be amended and Section 107.020 added in order to provide for the creation of county or regional managed assigned counsel programs to provide legal representation and services to a child, an indigent parent or an alleged father in a suit seeking conservatorship of a child or termination of parental rights; and

WHEREAS, the counties that create county or regional offices of parent or child representation or managed assigned counsel programs may use public funds to establish the county or regional offices of parent or child representation or managed assigned counsel programs and may do so by forming an office of representation that is either a governmental entity or a nonprofit corporation or bar association, as applicable, operating under a written agreement with a governmental entity, other than a judge or a court; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council supports the Supreme Court Children's Commission request for these amendments to the Texas Family Code.



Honorable Nathan L. Hecht
Chair, Texas Judicial Council

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