

Qualifications for Appointed Attorneys
Chapter 37 Texas Family Code
461st District Court – Judge Patrick Bulanek

Minimum Qualifications for Appointment as Attorney ad Litem, Amicus, Guardian ad Litem, Mediator-

Basic Requirements for all attorneys:

- Member in good standing with the State Bar of Texas;
- Person of good moral character;
- Practice in Brazoria County;
- Complete a minimum of 15 hours of certified CLE credits annually, with 10 in Family Law/Ad Litem Attorney Appointment area. No self-study hours will be accepted. Proof of the CLE credit hours will be satisfied by providing verification directly to the 461st District Court on an annual basis.

The deadline each year will be September 1. A verification/compliance form will be available for attorneys in the offices of the 461st District Court, the website for the 461st District Court or the website for the Brazoria County District Clerk's Office.

Appointed Attorney for Indigent Party/Attorney ad Litem/Guardian ad Litem qualifications:

- Basic requirements set out above;
- Provide proof of certification as an "Approved Guardian ad Litem/Attorney ad Litem" with the State Bar of Texas;
- Register with the 461st District Court (the Court will accept letters or emails from attorneys specifically outlining the attorney's request for appointment e.g., request for appointment as Attorney for Indigent party, AAL, GAL, AG indigent enforcement docket, Amicus, Appeals, and/or Termination cases);
- Have at least one (1) year experience practicing in Family Law cases in Brazoria County;
- To be appointed as Attorney for Indigent party in Termination cases or as AAL/GAL in Termination cases, the attorney must have at least three (3) years' experience in Family Law litigation involving Brazoria County cases, and have one (1) trial on the merits (bench or jury trial) as first chair within the last three (3) years, or three (3) trials on the merits as second chair;
- To be appointed in Non-Termination cases, have at least at least two (2) years' experience in Family Law involving Brazoria County cases;
- To be appointed on Appeals, have at least three (3) appeals as lead counsel and have at least three (3) years' experience in Family Law involving Brazoria County cases;

- To be appointed as Amicus Attorney, have at least three (3) years' experience in Family Law litigation involving Brazoria County cases and have at least ten (10) custody case hearings on Temporary Orders or five (5) trials on the merits with custody as a contested issue, with the hearings/trials to have occurred within the past three (3) years;
- To be appointed on Attorney General Enforcement docket, meet basic requirements above and practice in Brazoria County.

Mediators:

- Basic requirements set out above;
- Qualify under Chapter 154.052 Civil Practice and Remedies Code for Family and parent-child relationship disputes (minimum requirement of 40 hours classroom time in dispute resolution AND additional 24 hours classroom time in fields of family dynamics, child development and family law);
- Have at least three (3) years practice experience in Family Law/CPS litigation in Brazoria County, Texas; and
- Minimum five (5) mediations involving Brazoria County cases.