

1st Sub. H.B. 169

CUSTODY EVALUATION AND PARENT COORDINATION

Representative **Tim M. Cosgrove** proposes the following amendments:

1. Page 3, Lines 73 through 84:

73 (2) Licensed professionals in Subsection (1) shall have:

\*\*\* Some lines not shown \*\*\*

80 involved in custody decisions; **and**

81 (b) { **initial training totaling a minimum of 12 hours, and eight hours annually of**

82 **continuing education, specific to custody evaluation; and**

83 ~~—(c)~~ at least {~~24~~} **three** hours {~~of initial~~} **annual** training {~~, and 16 hours~~  
84 **annually of continuing education;**

~~on~~} **in** domestic violence **issues** .

2. Page 4, Lines 99 through 106:

99 A custody evaluator **who accepts a case** shall:

100 (1) {**accept cases referred by the court without regard to the financial situation of the**  
101 **parties;**

102 ~~—(2)~~} review with each party the custody evaluator's policies and procedures, including  
103 fees, for conducting an evaluation;

104 {~~(3)~~} **(2)** provide the court with copies of all written documentation and reports; and

105 {~~(4)~~} **(3)** note in the final report provided to the court, any missing or incomplete  
106 information.

3. Page 4, Lines 111 through 113:

111 (2) The court shall consider the financial situation **and the merits of the claims** of both parties in  
112 determining

112 payment for the custody evaluator's services, and make a final determination on the record of

113 the {~~amounts~~} **percentage of the evaluator's fee** each party is responsible for paying.

4. Page 5, Lines 121 through 123:

121 (1) "Parent coordinator" means a person appointed by the court to minimize trauma to

122 the children of divorce by resolving custody {~~-~~} **and parent-time** related disputes between the parents  
123 within the

123 scope of the court's order.

5. Page 5, Lines 135 through 148:

135 (2) Parent coordinators shall have:

136 (a) ~~{formal}~~ training ~~{or advanced knowledge}~~ in child development, child and adult  
137 psychopathology, interviewing techniques, and family systems;

\*\*\* Some lines not shown \*\*\*

144 (e) a minimum of ~~{40}~~ three hours of initial training which includes training in parent  
145 coordination, family dynamics in separation and divorce, domestic violence, child abuse, and  
146 court specific parenting procedures; and

147 (f) ~~{an additional 20}~~ two hours annually of specialized training which includes  
148 maintenance of professional competence in the parenting coordination process.

6. Page 6, Lines 156 through 157:

156 (3) A parent coordinator ~~{may}~~ should decline appointment if the case is beyond the parent  
157 coordinator's skill or expertise.

7. Page 6, Lines 168 through 170:

168 continue the coordinator.

169 ~~{(6) If one parent requests additional time and the other parent declines, the court shall  
170 determine the matter.}~~

8. Page 6, Line 177:

177 (3) The parent coordinator shall communicate ~~{decisions}~~ recommendations in a timely  
manner in person

9. Page 7, Lines 181 through 182:

181 and standards for decision-making. In addition, each party shall be given a copy of the court's  
182 order ~~{to}~~ appointing the coordinator.