

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

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
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}~~ three hours annually of specialized training which includes
148 maintenance of professional competence in the parenting coordination process , domestic violence, and child abuse .

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.