

1 AN ACT

2 relating to posttrial psychological counseling for jurors in a
3 criminal trial or juvenile adjudication hearing involving graphic
4 evidence or testimony.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Article 56.04(f), Code of Criminal Procedure, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (f) The commissioners court may approve a program in which
9 the crime victim liaison or victim assistance coordinator may offer
10 not more than 10 hours of posttrial psychological counseling for a
11 person who serves as a juror or an alternate juror in a criminal
12 ~~[the] trial [of an offense under Section 19.02, 19.03, 21.11,~~
13 ~~22.011, 22.021, 43.05, 43.25, or 43.251, Penal Code,~~] involving
14 graphic evidence or testimony and who requests the posttrial
15 psychological counseling not later than the 180th day after the
16 date on which the jury in the trial is dismissed. The crime victim
17 liaison or victim assistance coordinator may provide the counseling
18 using a provider that assists local criminal justice agencies in
19 providing similar services to victims.

20 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 57.003, Family Code, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Sec. 57.003. DUTIES [~~DUTY~~] OF JUVENILE BOARD AND VICTIM
23 ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR.

24 SECTION 3. Section 57.003, Family Code, is amended by

1 adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

2 (g) The juvenile board, with the approval of the
3 commissioners court of the county, may approve a program in which
4 the victim assistance coordinator may offer not more than 10 hours
5 of posttrial psychological counseling for a person who serves as a
6 juror or an alternate juror in an adjudication hearing involving
7 graphic evidence or testimony and who requests the posttrial
8 psychological counseling not later than the 180th day after the
9 date on which the jury in the adjudication hearing is dismissed.
10 The victim assistance coordinator may provide the counseling using
11 a provider that assists local juvenile justice agencies in
12 providing similar services to victims.

13 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only
14 to a criminal trial or juvenile adjudication hearing for which a
15 jury is selected on or after the effective date of this Act. A
16 criminal trial or juvenile adjudication hearing for which a jury is
17 selected before the effective date of this Act is governed by the
18 law as it existed immediately before that date, and that law is
19 continued in effect for that purpose.

20 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

David Newkurt

President of the Senate

Jim Strawn

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 608 was passed by the House on April 21, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 5, 2 present, not voting.

Robert Haney

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 608 was passed by the Senate on May 12, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Patricia Spaw

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 23 MAY '09

Date

RICK PERRY

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
5PM O'CLOCK

MAY 23 2009
Don Rubin
Secretary of State