

AN ACT

relating to requirements applicable to an attorney ad litem representing a child in a child abuse proceeding.

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

SECTION 1. Section 107.004(e), Family Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) An attorney ad litem appointed for a child in a proceeding under Chapter 262 or 263 is not required to comply with Subsection (d) before a hearing if the court finds at that hearing that the attorney ad litem has shown good cause why the attorney ad litem's compliance with that subsection is not feasible or in the best interest of the child. Additionally, a court may, on a showing of good cause, authorize an attorney ad litem to comply with Subsection (d) by conferring with the child or other individual, as appropriate, by telephone or video conference.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

David Swihart
President of the Senate

Tom Craddick
Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1972 was passed by the House on April 12, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1972 was passed by the Senate on May 15, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Patsy Spaw
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 15 JUN 07
Date

Rick Perry
Governor

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

JUN 15 2007
Roger Williams
Secretary of State