

**STANDING ORDER
REGARDING APPOINTMENTS OF AN IMPARTIAL THIRD PARTY
BY THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS**

The following Standing Order is ADOPTED:

Pursuant to Sec. 154.052., Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedures, Qualifications of Impartial Third Party, a court may in its discretion appoint an impartial third party who has not completed mediation training if the court bases its appointment on legal or other professional training or experience in particular dispute resolution processes.

Sec. 154.052. QUALIFICATIONS OF IMPARTIAL THIRD PARTY. (a) Except as provided by Subsections (b) and (c), to qualify for an appointment as an impartial third party under this subchapter a person must have completed a minimum of 40 classroom hours of training in dispute resolution techniques in a course conducted by an alternative dispute resolution system or other dispute resolution organization approved by the court making the appointment.

(b) To qualify for an appointment as an impartial third party under this subchapter in a dispute relating to the parent-child relationship, a person must complete the training required by Subsection (a) and an additional 24 hours of training in the fields of family dynamics, child development, and family law, including a minimum of four hours of family violence dynamics training developed in consultation with a statewide family violence advocacy organization.

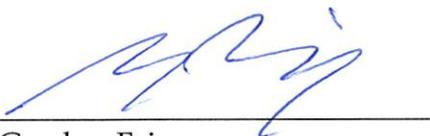
(c) In appropriate circumstances, a court may in its discretion appoint a person as an impartial third party who does not qualify under Subsection (a) or (b) if the court bases its appointment on legal or other professional training or experience in particular dispute resolution processes.

The court finds that attorneys, who are in good standing with the State Bar of Texas, are eligible to serve as volunteer mediators for family cases, including CPS cases, at the Dispute Resolution Center of Jefferson County.

SIGNED this 9th day of January, 2023



J. Randy Shelton
Judge, 279th District Court



Gordon Friesz
Judge, 317th District Court