

ATTORNEY APPLICATIONS

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION ON THE DEPENDENCY REGISTRY

Lawyers considered for certification under these procedures must:

1. Be members in good standing with the Florida Bar,
2. A lawyer whose principal office is located in Miami-Dade County, Florida, who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar, and who meets the standards prescribed below may be certified. Those attorneys whose principal office is not in Miami-Dade County and are already on the registry shall be allowed to continue on the registry.
3. The applicant must submit an original and five (5) copies of the Qualifications letter to the Administrative Office of Courts, address listed below.
4. In order for the applicant to be considered for certification, the Qualifications letter and all attachments thereto must be submitted at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled hearing considering the applicant,
5. All applicants must meet the minimum standards for proof of experience prescribed herein:

CATEGORIES

I. DEPENDENCY

- A. Five (5) Dependency *defense* cases from Detention hearing to the permanency stage.
- B. Two of the *defense* cases must be adjudicatory trials.
- C. If using a mentor for the experience, the applicant must have two separate mentors. Both mentors must sign for the applicant verifying the case, number of hearings attended, the nature of the hearings, and the nature of the mentor's instructions for each hearing.
- D. Eight (8) Continuing Legal Education ("CLE") credits in trial advocacy and/or evidentiary procedure in the past year. Five (5) must be in the field of Juvenile Dependency or Termination of Parental Rights.

II. TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS ("TPR")

- A. All of the Dependency requirements as stated above, plus the following:
- B. Five (5) TPR Defense cases to completion.
- C. Two of the TPR Defense cases must include adjudicatory trials.
- D. Eight (8) Continuing Legal Education ("CLE") credits in trial advocacy and/or evidentiary procedure in the past year. Five (5) must be in the field of Juvenile Dependency or Termination of Parental Rights.

III. APPEALS

- A. Five appeals must be listed written and filed solely by applicant (no co-counsel).

NOTES:

If an attorney wishes to gain experience in dependency or TPR cases through mentoring, the attorney may request mentoring assistance through the Juvenile Dependency Screening Committee.

Applicant meetings are scheduled quarterly: The first (1st) Tuesday in February, May, August, and November.

Applicants submitting the *Qualifications letter* and proof of completion of requirements to the 11th Judicial Circuit Juvenile Dependency Screening Committee may deposit them in the courtesy drop box located at the Office of the Clerk of Courts, at the Juvenile Justice Center, 3300 Northwest 27th Avenue, Room # 1000, Miami, Florida 33142."

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT: Please be advised that the above stated application requirements are under review by the local Indigent Services Committee (ISC). At the next ISC meeting on October 20, 2006, the Committee will discuss the requirement that all court-appointed counsel be residents of Miami-Dade County, and for those currently on the registry and reside in another county other than Miami-Dade County, to be grandfathered into the registry and not be required to reside in Miami-Dade County.