

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 and who meets the standards prescribed below may be certified. Those attorneys whose principal office or residence 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 meeting considering the applicant.
5. All applicants must meet the minimum standards for proof of experience prescribed herein:

CATEGORIES

I. DEPENDENCY

- A. The attorney applicant must certify and list legal representation of an offending parent in five (5) dependency *defense* cases from the detention hearing through termination of supervision.
- B. Three (3) of the cases certified and listed must be *defense* cases that were adjudicatory trials within the past five (5) years.
- C. The attorney applicant must certify and list eight (8) Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) credits in trial advocacy and/or evidentiary procedure in the last year. Five (5) must be in the field of Juvenile Dependency or Termination of Parental Rights.

II. TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS (“TPR”)

- A. The attorney applicant must certify and list all of the Dependency requirements as stated above, plus the following:
- B. The attorney applicant must certify and list legal representation in five (5) TPR *defense* cases of an offending parent from the Advisory hearing through Final Judgment within the past five (5) years.

III. APPEALS

- A. The dependency and termination of parental rights appeals applicant must certify and list legal representation of all the Dependency requirements as stated in I. and II above, plus the following:

- B. The attorney applicant must provide proof of legal representation in five (5) dependency and/or termination of parental rights appeals, briefed and filed by applicant (no co-counsel) within the past five (5) years.

IV. CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY (Florida Statutes §39.01305)

- A. The applicant must certify and list with dates five (5) Dependency cases from detention hearing to termination of supervision; two (2) of the case must be adjudicatory trials within the past two years.
- B. The applicant must provide a printout from the Florida Bar evidencing that within the last two (2) years the applicant has attended at least ten (10) hours of continuing legal education devoted to the legal needs of children at least five (5) hours of which were devoted to representation of children with special needs or disabilities and at least one (1) hour of which was devoted to ethics related to the representation of children.
- C. The applicant must certify that each has reviewed the Florida Guidelines of Practice for Lawyers who Represent Children in Abuse and Neglect Cases and reviewed Florida Statutes §39.01305.

NOTES:

In accordance with the Sunshine Law, applicant meetings are scheduled every four (4) months: Approximately, the first Tuesday in February, June, and October.

Applicants submitting the Qualifications letter and proof of completion of requirements to the 11th Judicial Circuit Juvenile Dependency Screening Committee may provide them to Dependency Clerk Supervisor or designee. Applicants may also deposit them in the courtesy drop box in the Office of the Clerk of Courts located at Miami-Dade Children's Courthouse, 155 N.W. 3rd Street, Third Floor, Miami, FL 33128.