

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2006 – 15
22nd Judicial Circuit
McHenry County, Illinois

ORDER IN COMPLIANCE WITH SUPREME COURT RULE 906

ATTORNEY QUALIFICATIONS IN CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION (ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT RULE 906).

- A. Counsel who are appointed by the court to participate in child custody and visitation matters, as delineated in Illinois Supreme Court Rule 900(b)(2) must possess the ability, knowledge, and experience to do so in a competent and professional manner.
- B. Attorneys seeking appointment in child custody and visitation cases shall apply in writing to the Chief Judge of the circuit. The applicant should set forth his or her qualifications as set forth herein. A list of attorneys so qualified shall be maintained by the Chief Judge's Office.
- C. Attorneys appointed by the court to represent children in child custody cases and guardianship cases when custody and visitation is an issue shall have the following minimum qualifications:
1. Be licensed and in good standing with the Illinois Supreme Court; and
 2. Prior to the appointment the attorney shall have 10 hours in the two years prior to the date the attorney qualifies for appointment in approved continuing legal education courses in the following areas; child development; roles of guardian *ad litem* and child representative; ethics in child custody cases; relevant substantive state, federal, and case-law in custody and visitation matters; family dynamics, including substance abuse, domestic abuse, and mental health issues; and
 3. One *pro bono* representation in the year prior to the appointment.
- In lieu of item#2, above, an attorney may initially qualify if she or he has acted as a guardian *ad litem*, child representative, or attorney for children in at least 5 cases in the two-year period preceding initial qualification.
- D. To remain on the approved list, each attorney shall attend approved continuing legal education courses of at least 10 hours in every two-year period following initial qualification, and such courses shall be in the following areas; child development; roles of guardian *ad litem* and child representative; ethics in child custody cases; relevant substantive state, federal, and case-law in custody and visitation matters; family dynamics, including substance abuse, domestic abuse, and mental health issues. Verification of such attendance shall be submitted to the Chief Judge at the time of attendance or upon request.

- E. Each attorney shall submit a Child Representation Information Sheet provided by the circuit along with a statement or other verification of attendance at continuing education.
- F. Each attorney must adhere to the minimum duties and responsibilities of attorneys for minor children as delineated in Supreme Court Rule 907.
- G. Each attorney placed on the approved list and subsequently appointed shall be paid by the parties to the litigation as ordered by the judge handling the file or as agreed between the litigants. Such fees shall be paid as ordered and the court may enforce the orders and judgments as in other proceedings, including the imposition of sanctions. Where possible, such fees shall be paid prior to engagement in the form of a retainer and accounted for by the appointed attorney where appropriate.
- H. The court may appoint an attorney from the approved list to serve on a *pro bono* basis, but no attorney shall be so appointed and serve more than once in any year.
- I. The Chief Judge may remove any attorney from the list of approved attorneys based upon failure to meet or maintain the listed qualifications, or for good cause shown, including failure of the attorney to perform as provided in Supreme Court Rule 907.

Dated _____

ENTER _____

MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN
CHIEF JUDGE