

Practice Standards

December, 2012

Section XXII, Representation of Children in Dependent/Neglect Cases

3. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CHILD'S LAWYER:

A. The OPD shall appoint as the child's lawyer an individual who is qualified through training and experience, according to standards established by the OPD Commission.

B. Lawyers for children shall receive initial training and annual continuing legal education that is specific to child welfare law. Lawyers for children shall be familiar with all relevant federal, state, and local applicable laws.

C. Lawyers for children shall not be appointed to new cases when their present caseload exceeds more than a reasonable number given the jurisdiction, the percent of the lawyer's practice spent on abuse and neglect cases, the complexity of the case, and other relevant factors.