STATE OF NEW YORK

5197

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 26, 2021

Introduced by Sen. SANDERS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the family court act, in relation to training requirements for attorneys appointed to represent a child in certain proceedings

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of subdivision (a) of section 249-b of the family court act, paragraph 2 as added and paragraph 3 as amended by chapter 476 of the laws of 2009, are amended and a new paragraph 4 is added to read as follows:

2. provide for the development of training programs with the input of and in consultation with the state office for the prevention of domestic violence. Such training programs must include **an overview of juvenile delinquency law and procedure** the dynamics of domestic violence and its effect on victims and on children, and the relationship between such dynamics and the issues considered by the court, including, but not limited to, custody, visitation and child support. Such training programs along with the providers of such training must be approved by the office of court administration following consultation with and input from the state office for the prevention of domestic violence; and

3. require that all attorneys for children, including new and veteran attorneys, receive initial **training for a period of six hours** and ongoing training **as prescribed by the court** as provided for in this section[~~.~~]**; and**

4. encourage public defender offices and agencies that provide representation in proceedings under this section to provide training on juvenile delinquency issues that the state bar has approved for continuing legal education credit.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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