

STATE OF NEW YORK

4789

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 12, 2025

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:

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

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

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

19 4. encourage public defender offices and agencies that provide repre-
20 sentation in proceedings under this section to provide training on juve-
21 nile delinquency issues that the state bar has approved for continuing
22 legal education credit.

23 § 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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