

Smith County Bar Foundation

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2011-2012

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Memo

To: Smith County Bar Family Law Section and other interested members of SCBA

From: SCBF Executive Committee

Date: 1/25/2012

Re: Self Represented Litigants (Pro Se) Clinics

Proposed Self Represented Litigants (Pro Se) Clinic Attorney

The Reference Attorney position will be replaced with a contract Self Represented Litigant (Pro Se) Clinic Attorney. The clinic attorney will review uncontested self represented litigants divorce decrees at permanently scheduled clinics. The clinics will be held for approximately 20-25 hours per month at times and locations to be coordinated with the Family Law Judges. Those times will include the first Monday of each month from 5 to 7 pm to coincide with the Kids First program that is held in the 321st District Courtroom at that time. Schedules of the clinic times and locations will be provided to self represented litigants by the District Clerk, Law Library and the court coordinators. The clinics will be held on a first come first served basis with a sign up sheet provided at the clinic. The clinic attorney will review as many decrees as possible at the clinic, but no guarantee will be made that the litigants will have their decree reviewed at any clinic. The clinic will only be open during posted hours and litigants may have to attend more than one clinic to have their documents reviewed. First priority for the next available clinic will be given to those who have attended a prior clinic. The Clinic Attorney will provide each courts with a list of the decrees that were reviewed at the clinic.

The Smith County Bar Foundation will request that the Smith County Law Library grant funding for a contract Clinic Attorney. This position may be put out for bids instead of being advertised through traditional employment methods. The Contract Attorney will provide detailed monthly reports to the Executive Director and to the Foundation Board as requested.

Mission Statement

The Smith County Bar Foundation exists to further justice and the rule of law in Smith County, Texas by educating and serving its citizens. The Foundation accomplishes these goals by: establishing programs designed to educate members of the general public as to their legal rights and responsibilities; promoting and facilitating the exercise of the legal rights of the poor; and serving the community through programs designed to assist those affected by the justice system.

Adopted October 21, 2001