

PROSPECTIVE CHILD WELFARE BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE

Name:		
Street address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Home phone:		Work or cell phone:
Occupation:		Employer:
Education:		County of residence:
Commissioners precinct of residence:		Number of years there:
Other boards, social, or professional organizations you belong to or have belonged to and dates of service:		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
Special skills or expertise:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations <input type="checkbox"/> Financial management <input type="checkbox"/> Public speaking <input type="checkbox"/> Planning/evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Community outreach <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer outreach		
Comments:		
Where did you learn about the child welfare board?		

What do you know about child protective services or the child welfare board?		
How much time per month could you devote to board and committee meetings?		
Why are you interested in being a member of the county child welfare board?		
Date available to begin service on the child welfare board?		
Please give three non-relative references:		
	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
1.		<u>Phone</u>
2.		
3.		
<p>I have read the information sheet and I would be interested in serving on the _____ County Child Welfare Board. I believe that I have the time, interest, and commitment to fulfill the role of an effective board member. I understand and believe that I am able to respect the confidentiality requirements for board members.</p>		
<p>_____ Signature</p>		<p>_____ Date</p>

Return completed questionnaire to:

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE CHILD WELFARE BOARD MEMBERS

Are you considering becoming a child welfare board member? The following information is provided to help you in making that decision. Please be aware that the functions and roles of child welfare board members vary somewhat from county to county, based upon the direction of the county commissioners court and the needs of the community. You may want to consult with a current board member or a county commissioner for information about board membership specific to your area.

Child welfare boards are statutorily authorized by the Texas Family Code §264.005 for the purposes of providing coordinated state and local public welfare services for children and their families and for the coordinated use of federal, state, and local funds for these services. The county commissioners court appoints from 7 to 15 county residents to serve rotating three-year terms. Members serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the fulfillment of their duties. Members may serve on the boards of other community organizations, including serving as an officer of another organization, as long as the responsibilities with each organization do not present a conflict of interest.

County boards typically meet monthly at a fixed date and time. Board meetings are subject to the open meeting requirements in state statute; however, a portion of a meeting may be closed to the public in order that confidential case-related expenditures and other matters can be discussed.

Child welfare boards are established through a contract between a county commissioners court and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the state agency responsible for the provision of child protective services. The county child welfare board works with DFPS and the commissioners court in carrying out the following duties:

- Authorizing and reviewing county expenditures for child welfare services
- Acting as a liaison between child protective services and the county commissioners court to secure adequate funding
- Assisting in recruiting foster and adoptive families
- Developing and supporting projects that enhance child protective services
- Formulating with child protective services staff a plan to develop community resources to meet identified needs
- Interpreting child protective services and needs to the community
- Contacting local and state government leaders to keep them informed of issues concerning children

Board members are responsible for adhering to certain membership requirements. Prospective members are asked to complete a DFPS Volunteer Application and Confidentiality Agreement. In order to have contact with children and families receiving child

protective services, members must also have criminal background checks and DFPS Central Registry Checks performed annually. Additional membership requirements include:

- Regularly attending board meetings and assigned committee meetings
- Maintaining confidentiality of case information received in a member's official capacity
- Staying informed about the board's mission, policies, services, and about the child protective services program, staff, and child abuse and neglect issues
- Receiving new member training, including training on Open Government, and ongoing training as identified by the board and/or commissioners court
- Informing the community about child welfare programs and facilitating the solution of child-welfare related problems
- Assisting with developing an informed and supportive constituency for child protective services in the community

Members may also be asked participate in fundraising activities in order to supplement state and county funding for children in foster care. Donated good and funds are used to provide clothing, school supplies, medical services, camp and college scholarships, and birthday gifts. Boards may host holiday celebrations and other special events for children in care and sponsor public awareness events to promote child abuse prevention and recruit foster and adoptive homes. Boards in some areas stock and manage Rainbow Rooms to provide emergency supplies such as diapers, clothing, and personal hygiene items for use by child protective services staff with children taken into care.

While being a child welfare board member requires a commitment of time and a concern for children, the benefits are priceless. Members have the satisfaction of knowing that through their efforts, children in their communities are safer and happier and families are strengthened. We hope that you will seriously consider serving your community in this way.

For more information about becoming a county child welfare board member, visit the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards Web site at www.tccwb.org. For questions or more information about the child welfare board in your county, contact: