

## QUALIFYING THE EVALUATOR AS AN EXPERT

Below are suggested questions which may qualify a Family Court Services Evaluator as an Expert at trial.

1. Please state your name and place of employment.
2. What is your profession or occupation? How long have you worked in the profession?
3. What is your education? Any certifications and/or licenses? Any degrees held?
4. What is your field of expertise?
5. Are you currently a member of any professional associations or societies?
6. What work do you complete as an employee of the Harris County Domestic Relations Office (DRO)?
7. What occupations or special training did you have prior to joining the DRO?
8. How many years have you conducted child custody evaluations?
9. How many evaluations have you participated in preparing?
10. What was the purpose and nature of the services you provided in this case?
11. Did those services involve an evaluation?
12. Please explain to the court the evaluation performed in relation to the services you provided in this case. (Any interviews conducted? Written statements and reports reviewed?)
13. As a result of these services, did you reach an opinion as to conservatorship?
14. Did you rely on your personal observations and experiences with the parties in this case when writing your report?
15. What other witnesses did you rely on to provide information?
16. What method or procedure did you rely upon in pursuing your evaluation in this case?
17. Do you use this same method or procedure for every custody evaluation?
18. You previously stated that you performed evaluations as a part of the services you rendered in this case. Could these evaluations have been performed by a lay person without your education and experience?
19. Does the evaluation prepared in this case comply with the minimum standards, guidelines and procedures for evaluations as set out in Chapter 107, subchapter D of the Texas Family Code?
20. Your Honor, I would ask that the evaluator be qualified as an expert.
21. Your Honor, may I approach the witness? Have report in hand and marked as an exhibit.
22. Ask evaluator, Can you identify Exhibit No. \_\_\_\_? What is it?
23. Your honor, I would ask that Exhibit No. \_\_\_\_ be admitted into evidence.
24. Based on your interviews, observations and evaluations, have you formed an opinion on the issue of conservatorship?
25. What is your opinion?