SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 25-07

(Amending Standards of Practice for the Mental Health Panel Attorneys)

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Family Court Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-114 Stat. 2100 (2002) provides that the Superior Court shall establish standards of practice for attorneys appointed as counsel in matters under the jurisdiction of the Family Court of the Superior Court; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Practice Standards for the Mental Health Panel Attorneys were adopted in Administrative Order 15-16; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Practice Standards for the Mental Health Panel Attorneys require that annually, all counsel who are eligible to participate in mental health proceedings must attend 16 hours of continuing formal legal training on mental health-related topics to continue representing the respondents in these proceedings; and subsequent experience has demonstrated that the number of hours should not be higher than the highest number of hours required for other Family Court panels; that is, 12 hours.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is by the Court,

ORDERED, that the Amendment to Attorney Practice Standards for the Mental Health Panel shall take effect on the date of this order and shall govern practice in mental health proceedings in the District of Columbia Superior Court.

SO ORDERED.

DATE: February 13, 2025

Milton C. Lee, Jr.
Chief Judge

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Superior Court of the District of Columbia
Family Court

Amendment to Attorney Practice Standards For the Mental Health Panel

Submitted to Milton Lee, Jr., Chief Judge
Superior Court of the District of Columbia

By

Darlene M. Soltys, Presiding Judge, Family Court

Amendment to Attorney Practice Standards for the Mental Health Panel by replacing A-1 Prerequisites for Appointment and Training with this paragraph:

A. General Authorities and Duties
A-1 Prerequisites for Appointment and Training

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Each year, all counsel who are eligible to participate in mental health proceedings must attend 12 hours of continuing formal legal training on mental health-related topics to continue representing the respondents in these proceedings.