



CONTACT AN ATTORNEY FOR ASSISTANCE ON PRO BONO CASES

Below is a list of experienced and well-qualified family lawyers, listed by geographic area, that have pre-agreed to answer participant's questions over the phone about their pro bono case in the event they get stuck or just need some helpful advice on what to do next. These family lawyers have volunteered to assist participants. To be clear, these volunteers are available to answer questions and will not co-counsel a case or be a guide/mentor for an entire case.

1. GUIDELINES FOR CONTACTING SUPPORT

- a. As you work on your Justice in Action pro bono family law case, you may encounter legal questions where a second opinion or deeper insight is helpful. Reaching out to another family lawyer is a valuable opportunity—but should be done thoughtfully and professionally.
- b. Please also be aware of ethics rules regarding discussing client information. Ethics still apply in pro bono cases.

c. Here is how to make the most of your request for help (DOs & DON'Ts):

i. DOs When Asking for Help

1. Prepare Your Question(s) in Advance

- a. Come with a specific, narrow legal question (e.g., “Does the father need court approval to relocate with the child under a temporary order?”)

2. Give Context, Not a Full History

- a. Briefly frame the issue: “This is a custody dispute under a temporary order. The parties have a 50/50 schedule, but the father is denying the mother holiday visitation”

3. Be Organized and Efficient

- a. Reference the relevant facts and procedural posture.
- b. Have the relevant documents or code sections ready if needed.
- c. Stay focused on one issue per conversation.

4. Be Clear on What you Need

- a. Ask for guidance, clarification, or confirmation—not for them to solve the whole case. (e.g., “I’d like your thoughts on whether this is strong enough to justify a modification request.”)

5. Be Respectful of Their Time

- a. Aim for a 5-10 minute conversation unless they offer more. If they're unavailable, ask to schedule a quick time to connect.

6. Follow Up Professionally

- a. Thank them for their time and advice, and update them if you take action based on their input.

ii. DON'T's When Asking for Help:

1. Don't Come Without a Clear Ask

- a. Avoid: "I'm just stuck."
- b. Instead: "I'm trying to determine if the facts meet the standard"

2. Don't Recount the Entire Case File

- a. Provide the facts to what's relevant to your question. Respect their time.

3. Don't Use Real Names

- a. Keep client details anonymous unless you've confirmed it's appropriate.

4. Don't Expect Them to Do the Research for You

- a. Try to research first. If you're stuck, explain what you've tried and where you're hitting a wall.

5. Don't Ask Repeatedly About the Same Issue

- a. If more extensive help is needed, there's a better route—see below.

d. Need More In-Depth Help?

- i. If your issue requires significant analysis—such as jurisdictional complexity, UCCJEA application, or enforcement questions—email Justice in Action at justiceinactioninfo@gmail.com.
- ii. Provide the following information:
 - 1. A 2-3 sentence summary of the case
 - 2. A focused legal issue or question
 - 3. Any key facts or legal sources you've already reviewed.

If appropriate, they will attempt to match you with additional resources.

****Also, don't forget you can consult the Justice in Action Legal Guide/Toolkit available on the Justice in Action website.**

LIST OF HELPFUL ATTORNEYS				
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	PHONE	EMAIL	PRIMARY COUNTIES OF PRACTICE
Mary Evelyn	McNamara	(512) 439-7000	mrmcnamara@riversmcnamara.com	TRAVIS, WILLIAMSON, HAYS
Sallee	Smyth	(281) 238-6200	smyth.sallee@gmail.com	HARRIS, FORT BEND, BRAZORIA, MONTGOMERY (STATEWIDE - APPEALS)
Rocky	Pilgrim	(281) 516-7054	rocky@pilgrimlaw.com	HARRIS, FORT BEND
Laura	Fidelie	(940) 228-7075	laura@laurafidelielaw.com	WICHITA, WILBARGER, CLAY, ARCHER, MONTAGUE, YOUNG, BAYLOR, KNOX, FOARD
Tammy	Moon	(832) 368-9727	tmoon@schlangersilver.com	HARRIS
Lisa	Richardson	(512) 255-8900	lisa@lrfamilylawtx.com	WILLIAMSON
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