



Office of the Director

Judge John W. Smith

Director

PO Box 2448, Raleigh, NC 27602
T 919 890-1391 F 919 890-1915

Amendment to Requirements for Juvenile Certification for District Court Judges

Whereas the Chief Justice's Family Court Advisory Committee recommended that the undersigned review and revise the certification process and implement additional requirements to maintain Certification as a Juvenile Court Judge; and whereas it appears the recommendations are appropriate and will improve the Juvenile Court Certification process; the current requirements for Certification as a Juvenile Court Judge under 7A-147(c) are amended as follows:

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR JUVENILE COURT JUDGES

1. Initial Certification requires that a District Court Judge:
 - a. Has served as a District Court Judge for at least 12 months before enrolling in the certification program, and
 - b. Has completed the core curriculum approved by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The core curriculum shall include emphasis in the following topics and may be completed in any order:
 - i. Child Development
 - ii. Substance Abuse
 - iii. The Law applicable to Child Abuse, Neglect, Dependency, and Termination of Parental Rights
 - iv. The Law relating to Delinquency; and
 - c. Submits a certification from the Chief District Court Judge to the Director of the Administrative Office of the Court, that at any time after completing the second of the four courses but not later than 12 months after completing the final course, the judge has presided over:
 - i. At least 100 juvenile hearings (adjudication or disposition, termination of parental rights, or other contested juvenile matters) or
 - ii. At least 50% of all juvenile hearings in the district.
2. To maintain Certification, each Certified Juvenile Court Judge must complete at least six hours of continuing judicial education in each biennium at courses administered by the North Carolina Judicial College at the UNC School of Government or at the Summer or Fall Judges' Conferences of the North Carolina Association of District Court Judges. Faculty of the North Carolina Judicial College shall designate qualified courses. These six hours may include designated courses that also are counted toward the twenty-four hours required of a Family Court Judge.

- a. No judge may claim a current certification unless this continuing education requirement has been fulfilled.
 - b. A failure to maintain this education requirement results in an automatic expiration and suspension of the certification until an equivalent of all delinquent hours have been made up.
 - c. This requirement shall commence beginning with the June 2012 Conference of District Court Judges, and the School of Government shall designate qualifying courses at the agenda for that conference and each succeeding conference thereafter.
 - d. Each certified Juvenile Court Judge is responsible for reporting compliance to the Administrative Office of the Courts.
 - e. For good cause, the Chief Justice may grant relief or alternative remedial measures for any failure to maintain this continuing judicial education requirement.
3. This amendment is effective as of the beginning of the new CJE biennium on July 1, 2013, and shall be applied to all existing, pending, and future certifications. The School of Government shall designate, as has been the practice, the courses and sessions that may be credited for the purpose of maintaining certification.

This April 18, 2013



John W. Smith
Director
Administrative Office of the Courts