

## Part 1: Lawyer Information

- Last Name, First Name:\*
- Alberta Year of Call:\*
- Firm Name:\*
- Mobile Number:\*
- Email Address:\*
- Primary Language:\*
- Secondary Language:\*
- Primary Court Location:\*

## Part 2: Panel Competencies / Competency Plan

**Note: Note:** Legal Aid Alberta invites applications from lawyers of all levels of seniority. LAA does not necessarily require that panel members demonstrate all four of the competencies mentioned below. LAA will select lawyers for this panel based on the lawyers':

- Demonstrated competency in the areas listed below, or
- If the lawyer has not yet demonstrated this competency, the strength of the lawyer's plan to develop this competency while a member of the panel.

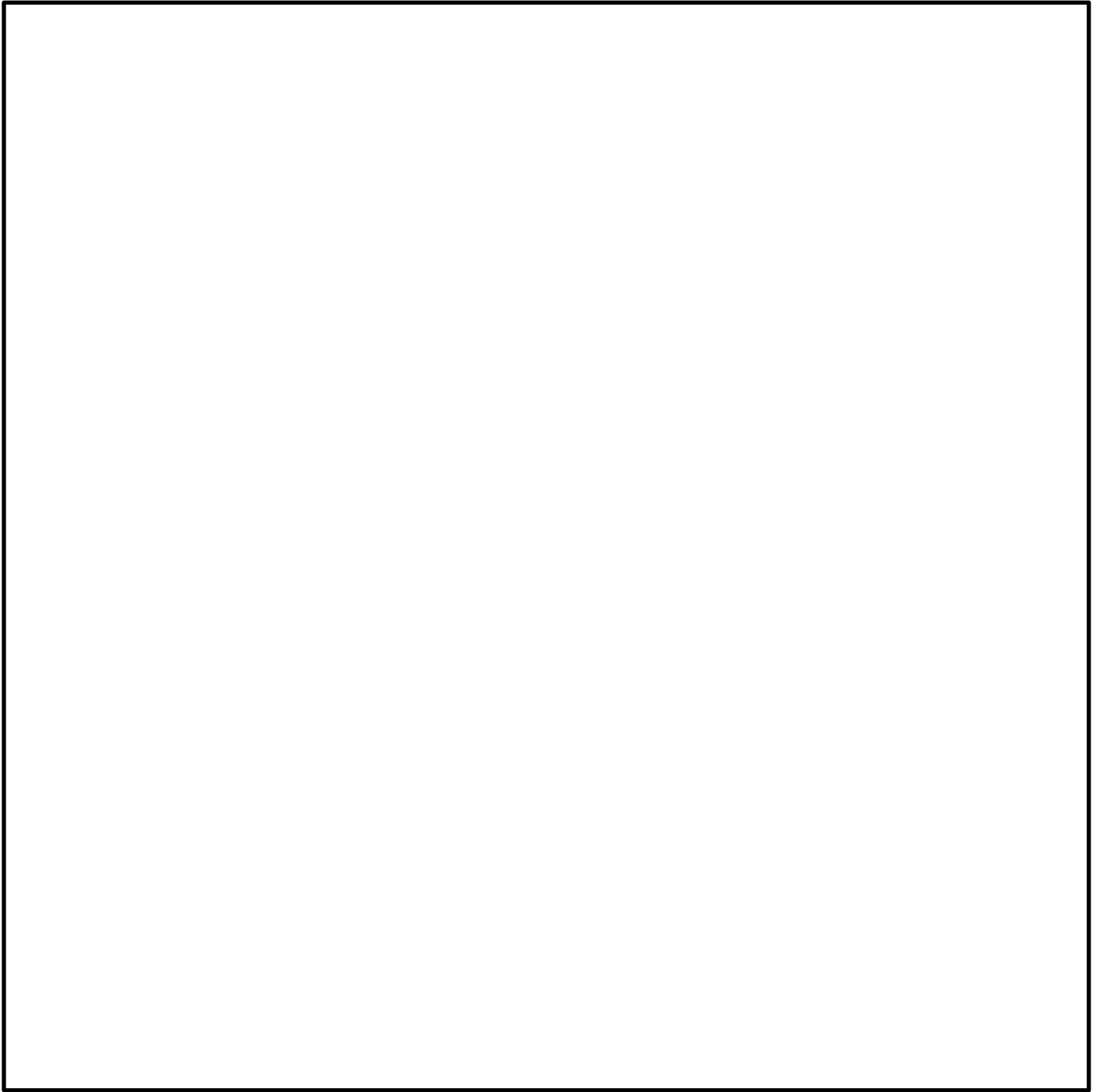
Your answers to the questions in this section should therefore summarize your existing competency, or – if you lack this competency – should describe your plan for how you will develop the competency.

1. **Competency #1: Significant knowledge of and experience in child welfare proceedings under the *Child, Youth Family Enhancement Act* (hereinafter referred to as “CYFEA”), the CYFEA Regulations and Children Services Enhancement Act Policy Manual. In addition, counsel must have a good understanding of the interplay between CYFEA and the *Family Law Act* as it relates to private guardianship, guardianship, and other parenting arrangements. A strong knowledge of the rules of evidence is necessary as it relates to running a child welfare trial. Counsel should have experience in conducting all aspects of a child welfare file from running initial custody hearings, negotiating resolutions to conducting a child welfare trial.**

1.1. Approximately how much of your practice is devoted to family law and more specifically how much of your practice is devoted to child welfare law

1.2. Approximately how many child welfare files you have had carriage of over the last five years?

1.3. Summarize any training seminars or other continuing legal education programs that you have attended that relate to child welfare matters.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the user to provide a summary of training seminars or continuing legal education programs related to child welfare matters.

1.4. Describe any other ways you have demonstrated your aptitude or experience in representing parents or children in child welfare matters.

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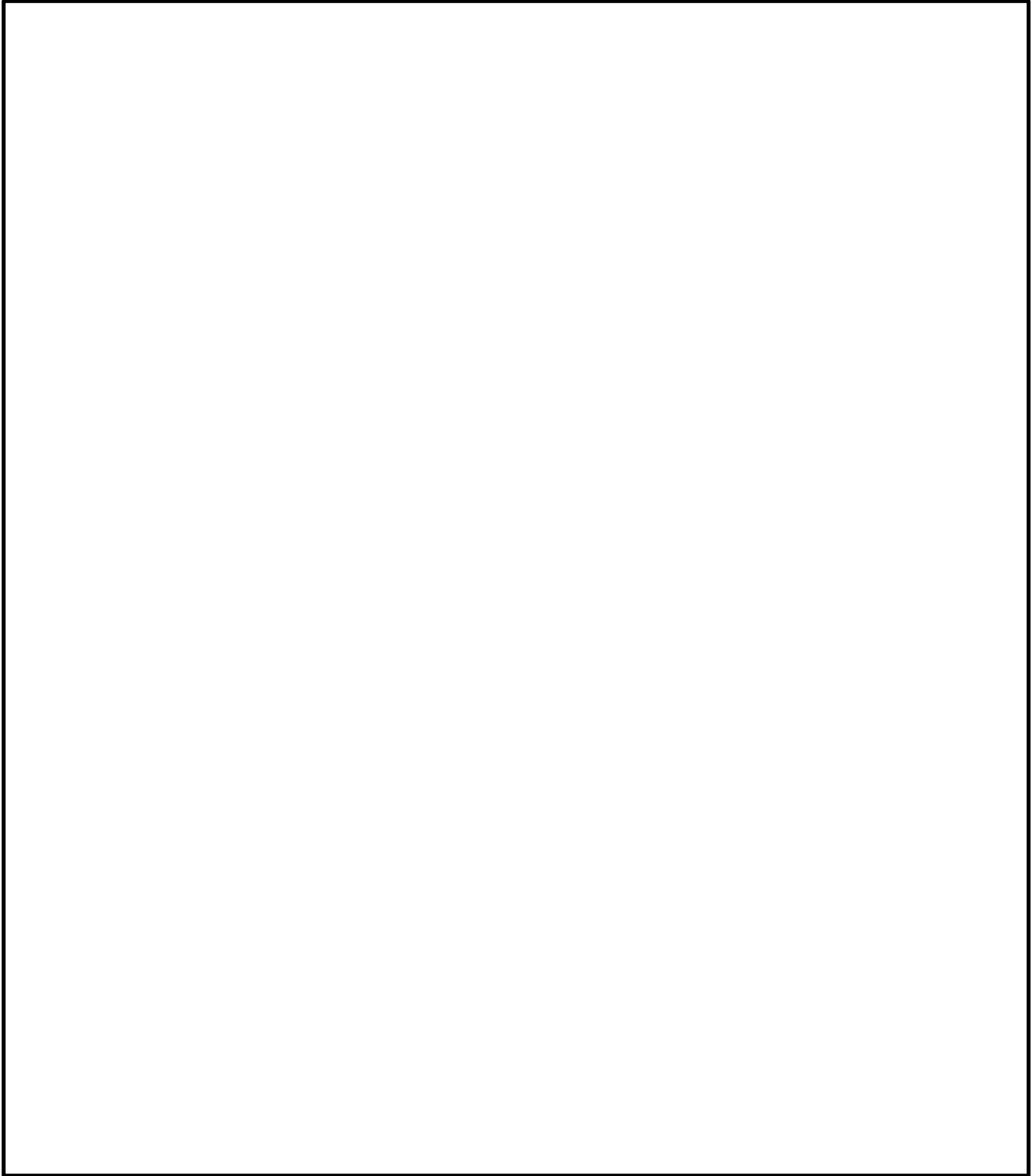
**2. Competency #2: Specific training and experience in representation of Indigenous individuals in child protection matters. Applicants must demonstrate an appreciation of the challenges faced by Indigenous individuals in the child protection and criminal justice system. Lawyers must have a deep understanding of the issues faced by Indigenous peoples and the continuing impacts that Colonialism plays in their families' lives. Familiarity with An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis Children, Youth and Families Act, the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Recommendations, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry's Call to Justice and the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate Special Report on the Overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the Child welfare system in Alberta is required.**

2.1. Summarize any specific training seminars or other continuing legal education programs that you have attended that may relate to representation of indigenous individuals in the child welfare or criminal justice system. Some ways lawyers may demonstrate this competency include: (a) by listing training seminars or other continuing legal education the lawyer has undertaken in relation to cultural competency, (b) by estimating how many child welfare files they have handled over the past five years where their clients have been Indigenous and they have made arguments regarding these sources, (c) by describing some serious, interesting, or reported child welfare cases the lawyer has been involved in or (d) any other related work they have done to promote the indigenous families interests in child protection proceedings.

**3. Competency #3: Strong communication, problem solving, conflict management, resolution focused and negotiation skills in working with families involved in high conflict child protection litigation. This includes, for example, interest or experience working with clients from Indigenous and marginalized communities, newcomers to Canada, families who are experiencing domestic violence, poverty, addiction, or other issues that have caused them to come into contact with the child welfare system. Experience in working with and navigating parents with mental health and addictions is required.**

3.1. Why are you interested in working with child welfare clients? Describe any experience you have in working with and navigating parents with mental health and addictions? List any training seminars or other continuing legal education the lawyer has undertaken in relation to negotiations, mediation, or collaborative law and/or any of the issues listed above that may cause parents to come into contact with Children's Services.

3.2. What training, if any or familiarity do you have with the agencies and programs that serve families involved in the child welfare system to assist clients who have parenting struggles, mental health, or addiction issues?



**4. Competency #4: A Commitment to Training and Continuing Legal Education in the specific area of child protection. Child Welfare Panel lawyers are expected to seek out continuing legal education opportunities relevant to the competencies listed above and complete at least 6 hours per year of professional continuing education in the area of child protection.**

4.1. How would you meet this requirement for 6 hours of legal education in the area of child welfare?



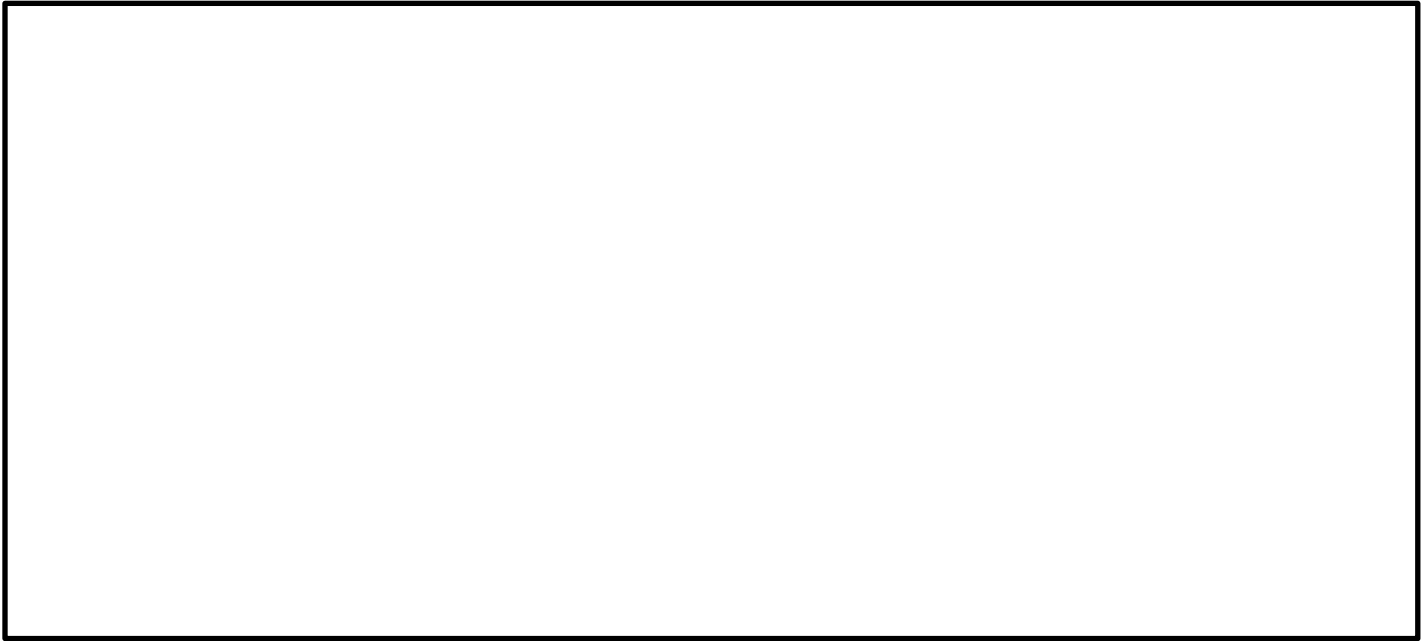
### **Part 3: Explaining Your Interest in the Panel**

Besides what you stated in Question 3.1, are there any other reasons you are interested in this panel?

Is there anything else you want LAA to know when we consider your application?

If you have been practicing child welfare law for in excess of 10 years, would you be willing to be a mentor for a junior lawyer to be able to ask questions and seek out shadowing opportunities? Please elaborate on your interest in mentoring?

If you have been practicing child welfare law for less than 2 years, you will be required to work with a mentor who has extensive experience in child welfare proceeding. What steps, if any, have you taken to seek out mentorship and by whom? Are they prepared to have a more formal mentoring relationship to support your application to be on the child welfare panel. Please elaborate.



## Part 4: References

Please provide up to two references who can comment on your interest, aptitude, and experience in the areas mentioned above. If you name any references, LAA may contact them for their confidential opinion about your competencies and your suitability for this panel. LAA may choose not to contact your references.

### Reference #1

1. Name:

2. Phone number:

3. Email address:

4. Relationship:

### Reference #2

5. Name:

6. Phone number:

7. Email address:

8. Relationship:

## Part 5: CV/Resume

Please attach a copy of your CV/Resume for LAA to review with this application.

## Part 6: Declarations

\* I have read the panel description document for this panel. I certify that all information I have provided to LAA as part of this application is accurate. I acknowledge that LAA will use this information to evaluate my application in accordance with LAA policies. I give LAA permission to make confidential inquiries about my competencies to the references I have listed above. I agree that any information provided by these references will only be used to evaluate my suitability for this panel and I agree that LAA may keep this information confidential from me.

## Instructions To Submit

Please save this form and submit the completed PDF (and any attachments) by email to: [childwelfarepanel@legalaid.ab.ca](mailto:childwelfarepanel@legalaid.ab.ca) . The deadline for submitting this form can be found on the LAA website [[https://www.legalaid.ab.ca/child\\_welfarepanel/](https://www.legalaid.ab.ca/child_welfarepanel/)]. We cannot accept applications received after the deadline. You will be informed of the results of your application by email in due course which may include your selection for an interview for the panel.