

Part 1: Lawyer Information

- Last Name, First Name:*
- Alberta Year of Call:*
- Firm Name:*
- Mobile Number:*
- Email Address:*

Part 2: Panel Competencies / Competency Plan

Note: Legal Aid Alberta requires 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.

1. **Competency #1: Significant knowledge of and experience in family law proceedings under *Family Law Act* and the *Divorce Act* and amendments; including conducting all aspects of a family file from negotiating resolutions to conducting trials.**

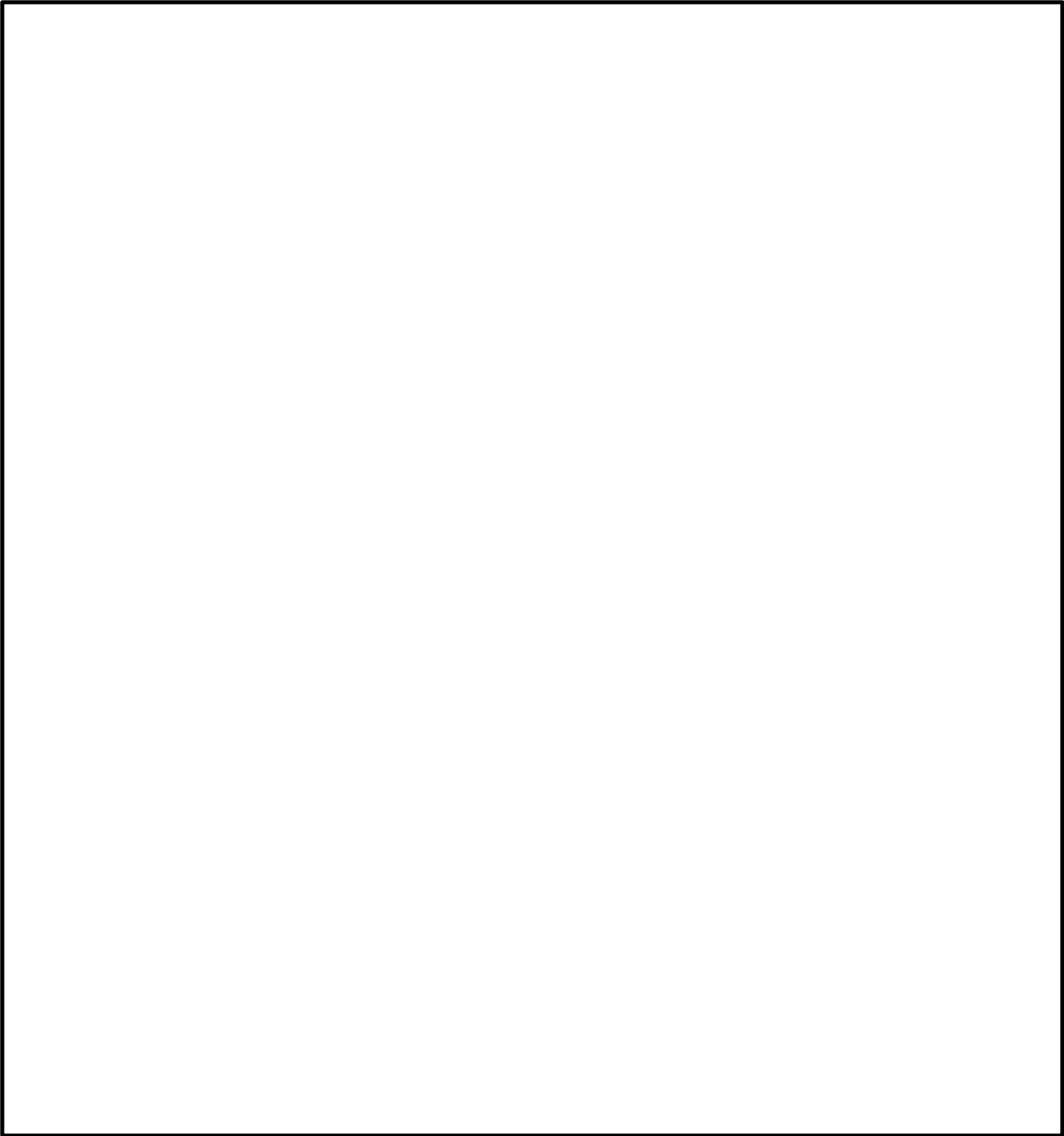
- 1.1. Approximately how much of your practice is devoted to family law and of that, how much is devoted to representation of children?

- 1.2. Approximately how many high conflict parenting files have you represented parents in over the last three years? Of those high conflict parenting files, how many have you had independent counsel for the children appointed and worked with child's counsel?

Competency #2: Specific training and experience in representation of children in high conflict parenting matters and knowledge of the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child and extensive knowledge of Alberta Rules of Court and Practice Notes and a demonstrated understanding of the unique nature of representation of children in high conflict disputes.

- 2.1 Highlight 3 specific continuing legal education sessions that you have attended since being on the Child Representation Panel that related to representation of children in high conflict family law matters, and describe how have you incorporated those learnings and knowledge into your representation of children?

- 2.2. List any other child representation panels you currently are or were a member of in Alberta or other provinces. What professional associations are you a member of that would support your application for re-empanelment such as AFCC, CBA-Child and Youth Section, etc. Please highlight any other ways you have demonstrated your aptitude or experience in representing children including any speaking engagements that relate to Representation of Children in High Conflict Parenting matters.



- 2.3. What do you see as being the most important functions of independent counsel for the child? How do you determine the appropriate role to take as child's counsel? How have you handled situations where you have had to make a change to the role you are taking as child's counsel?

Competency #3: Experience in working with and interviewing children. A deep understanding of the child development, the brain science literature, dynamics of high conflict parenting litigation and the effects on children being exposed to the toxic stress resulting from a high conflict family breakdown and litigation is required. Knowledge of the literature on impact of high conflict disputes on children and resources available to children within the lawyer's geographic service areas would be an asset.

3.1 How have you addressed the evidentiary issues in getting the views and preferences of your child clients before the Court. Briefly highlight any specific experiences you have had working with Parenting Experts since being on the Child Representation Panel.

Competency #4: Strong communication, problem solving, conflict management, resolution focused and negotiation skills in working with families involved in high conflict parenting litigation. This includes, for example, interest or experience working with children from Indigenous and marginalized communities, families who are experiencing domestic violence, poverty, addiction, in addition to family breakdown. Experience in working with and navigating parents with mental health and addictions is required.

- 4.1. Please detail any training you have in interest-based negotiation, mediation, collaborative law and/or parenting coordination. Provide an example where your strong communication and problem-solving skills helped resolve a high conflict matter as child’s counsel.

Part 3: Explaining Your Interest in Continuing on the Child Representation Panel

Is there any other relevant information that you wish to share regarding why you are interested in continuing to be a member of LAA’s Child Representation Panel.

Part 4: 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 competency to be on the Child Representation Panel.

Instructions To Submit

Please save this form and submit the completed PDF (and any attachments) by email to: childreppanel@legalaid.ab.ca The deadline for submitting this form is **January 24, 2025**.