

2007 Sampson and Tindall
June 27, 2007 • Moody Gardens • Galveston, TX
July 12, 2007 • Belo Mansion • Dallas, TX
July 13, 2007 • Francis Auditorium, The University of Texas School of Law •
Austin, TX
July 19, 2007 • • Austin,

Day 1 Afternoon

1:30 pm
In Galveston,
Dallas, Austin
Only
3.00 hrs

Sampson & Tindall's 9th Biennial Family Law Legislative Update

With one week remaining in the 80th Legislative Session, it seemed almost certain that Sampson & Tindall's 9th Biennial Family Law Legislative Update faced cancellation for lack of material. What a difference a week makes—especially that extraordinary last weekend. Newspaper reports all focused on the abortive attempt to depose the speaker. Less noticed by the press was the record-breaking, rules-suspending activity that followed the failed coup d'état, resulting in a virtual core-dump during the last three days. This legislative update is designed to make you aware of what the changes do, and how the new substantive changes will affect your family law practice. Two of the most knowledgeable family law experts in the state, University of Texas School of Law Professor John J. Sampson and Houston attorney Harry L. Tindall, will lead the discussion. They may be joined at some of the sessions by other experts. Highlights include:

- Long-awaited adjustment of the child support guidelines, taking into account the changes in financial circumstances in the last 14 years.
- Standard Possession Order (SPO) amended to reflect lessons learned about modern schedules. Similarly, adaptation is made to the Internet world for parent access.
- Comprehensive revision of the controversial "parenting plan" initiated in 2005 has been made. The provisions that elicited so much criticism from the practicing bar were eliminated, while the underlying changes in terminology and approach favored by many judges were retained.
- New provisions for ordering life insurance for child support and calculation of estate liability.
- Posthumous annulment sought and obtained by Probate lawyers.
- Standing to sue—expanded for the extended family.
- New assisted reproduction rules—informal donors beware!
- Requirements for social studies in SAPCR extensively revised.
- Domestic Relations Offices given new powers to serve as parenting coordinators.
- Military deployment and absent parent—new rules for stepparents.
- Attorney General's Child Support Division given new administrative remedies.
- As always, more revisions to the Children's Protective Services laws.
- Almost as interesting are bills that didn't pass, but will be heard from again, e.g., embryo adoption, covenant marriage, and paternity disestablishment.

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