

# Texas Dispute Resolution System™

Domestic Relations Office

Texas Rural Mediation Services™



Dispute Resolution Training Institute™

Office of Dispute Resolution

## MEMO

To: Judge Curtis Parrish

CC: Commissioner Terence Kovar, Precinct 1; Commissioner Jason Corley, Precinct 2; Commissioner Gilbert Flores, Precinct 3; Commissioner Jordan Rackler, Precinct 4

From: D. Gene Valentini, Director

Date: January 12, 2024

Re: 01-22-2024 Agenda Item: Consider approval of Response to the State of Texas Office of the Attorney General Statement of Work Access & Visitation.

The Office of Dispute Resolution requests approval to respond to the Office of the Attorney General's (OAG) funding opportunity to expand our Domestic Relations Office (DRO) services. These funds would be provided under a contract with the OAG for services pursuant to the federal Access and Visitation Grant 42 U.S.C. 669b.

A DRO can provide a wide range of activities as authorized by Texas Family Code, Chapter 203. Lubbock County has over 23,000 active IV-D (child support) cases, many of which continue being involved with our Courts after rendition.

The OAG will evaluate responses and notify Counties of the awards in May 2024. If awarded a contract by the OAG, the funding will enable our courts to order certain services deemed to be in a child's best interest, including:

1. Legal assistance
2. Supervised visitation
3. Parent education coordinator/facilitator
4. Mediation; and
5. Development of parenting plans.

Funds will be used to support expenses of the professionals providing the desired services. The full amount requested is \$55,555.55, of which 90% is funded by the OAG (\$50,000) and 10% funded by ODR.