

Chapter 55 and JCMH Bench Book

Speaker

Molly Davis joined the Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health in 2020 and is the lead author of the Juvenile Mental Health and IDD Bench Book. Prior to that, she served as a prosecutor in Tarrant County for 12 years, including 6 years as a juvenile prosecutor. She is Board Certified in Juvenile Law and has trained judges, lawyers, probation officers, CPS workers, and law enforcement officers on juvenile law and procedures. Molly holds a bachelor of Social Work from Michigan State University and a JD from the University of Dayton School of Law.

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The Texas Juvenile Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Bench Book is a procedural guide for Texas judges hearing cases regarding juveniles with mental illness and/or IDD. Each section contains applicable statutory processes, relevant guidance, and sample forms. Statutory language is simplified where possible, and practice notes are included in text boxes and footnotes.

Chapter 55 of the Texas Family Code explains proceedings concerning children with mental illness or IDD. In this presentation, Molly explains the proper use of the Bench Book and Chapter 55.