

Sec. 51.17. PROCEDURE AND EVIDENCE. (a) Except as provided by Section [56.01](#)(b-1) and except for the burden of proof to be borne by the state in adjudicating a child to be delinquent or in need of supervision under Section [54.03](#)(f) or otherwise when in conflict with a provision of this title, the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure govern proceedings under this title.

(b) Discovery in a proceeding under this title is governed by the Code of Criminal Procedure and by case decisions in criminal cases.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by this title, the Texas Rules of Evidence applicable to criminal cases and Articles [33.03](#) and [37.07](#) and Chapter [38](#), Code of Criminal Procedure, apply in a judicial proceeding under this title.

(d) When on the motion for appointment of an interpreter by a party or on the motion of the juvenile court, in any proceeding under this title, the court determines that the child, the child's parent or guardian, or a witness does not understand and speak English, an interpreter must be sworn to interpret for the person as provided by Article [38.30](#), Code of Criminal Procedure.

(e) In any proceeding under this title, if a party notifies the court that the child, the child's parent or guardian, or a witness is deaf, the court shall appoint a qualified interpreter to interpret the proceedings in any language, including sign language, that the deaf person can understand, as provided by Article [38.31](#), Code of Criminal Procedure.

(f) Any requirement under this title that a document contain a person's signature, including the signature of a judge or a clerk of the court, is satisfied if the document contains the signature of the person as captured on an electronic device or as a digital signature. Article [2.26](#), Code of Criminal Procedure, applies in a proceeding held under this title.

(g) Articles [21.07](#), [26.07](#), [26.08](#), [26.09](#), and [26.10](#), Code of Criminal Procedure, relating to the name of an adult

defendant in a criminal case, apply to a child in a proceeding held under this title.

(h) Articles [58.001](#), [58.101](#), [58.102](#), [58.103](#), [58.104](#), [58.105](#), and [58.106](#), Code of Criminal Procedure, relating to the use of a pseudonym by a victim in a criminal case, apply in a proceeding held under this title.

(i) Except as provided by Section [56.03](#)(f), the state is not required to pay any cost or fee otherwise imposed for court proceedings in either the trial or appellate courts.

Acts 1973, 63rd Leg., p. 1460, ch. 544, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1973. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 262, Sec. 14, eff. Jan. 1, 1996; Acts 1999, 76th Leg., ch. 1477, Sec. 3, eff. Sept. 1, 1999; Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 283, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

Amended by:

Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 949 (H.B. [1575](#)), Sec. 6, eff. September 1, 2005.

Acts 2007, 80th Leg., R.S., Ch. 908 (H.B. [2884](#)), Sec. 9, eff. September 1, 2007.

Acts 2009, 81st Leg., R.S., Ch. 642 (H.B. [1688](#)), Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2009.

Acts 2013, 83rd Leg., R.S., Ch. 1299 (H.B. [2862](#)), Sec. 12, eff. September 1, 2013.

Acts 2019, 86th Leg., R.S., Ch. 469 (H.B. [4173](#)), Sec. 2.31, eff. January 1, 2021.