Judicial Qualifications Checklist

Statutory Requirements

Family Court Judges

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Candidate is a citizen of the United States | S.C. Code Ann. § 20-7-1370(A) (Supp. 1997). |
|  | Candidate is a citizen of South Carolina. | S.C. Code Ann. § 20-7-1370(A) (Supp. 1997). |
|  | Candidate is at least 32 years old. | S.C. Code Ann. § 20-7-1370(A) (Supp. 1997). |
|  | Candidate has been a licensed attorney for at least the past 8 years. | S.C. Code Ann. § 20-7-1370(A) (Supp. 1997). |
|  | Candidate resides in the circuit for which he seeks election. | S.C. Code Ann. § 20-7-1370(A) (Supp. 1997). |
|  | Additional requirements for certain circuits:   1. In circuits 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16, at least one family court judge must be a resident of each county in the circuit. 2. In the 9th judicial circuit both counties in the circuit must have at least 2 resident family court judges. 3. In those judicial circuits made up of 3 or more counties at least 1 family court judge must be a resident of 1 of the counties which does not have the largest population in the circuit. 4. No county in the 6th judicial circuit may have more than one resident family court judge. | S.C. Code Ann. § 20-7-1370 and § 20-7-1410 (Supp. 1997). |
|  | General Assembly shall elect a number of family court judges from each judicial circuit as follows:  First Circuit: 3 judges  Second Circuit: 2 judges  Third Circuit: 3 judges  Fourth Circuit: 3 judges  Fifth Circuit: 4 judges  Sixth Circuit: 2 judges  Seventh Circuit: 3 judges  Eighth Circuit: 3 judges  Ninth Circuit: 6 judges  Tenth Circuit: 3 judges  Eleventh Circuit: 3 judges  Twelfth Circuit: 3 judges  Thirteenth Circuit: 6 judges  Fourteenth Circuit: 3 judges  Fifteenth Circuit: 3 judges  Sixteenth Circuit: 2 judges | S.C. Code Ann. § 20-7-1410 (Supp. 1997) |
|  | Candidate has been a resident of South Carolina for at least the five years preceding the election. | S. C. Code Ann. § 20-7-1370(A) (Supp. 1997). |
|  | Candidate is not serving in the General Assembly and has not served there for at least one year prior to nomination as a judge or from the time the candidate failed to file for election to the General Assembly in accordance with § 7-11-15. (March 30th of the year of the election). | S.C. Code Ann. § 2-19-70 (Supp. 1997). |
|  | Candidate has not served on the Judicial Merit Selection Committee for a period of one year. | S.C. Code Ann. § 2-19-10(G) (Supp. 1997). |