



Fall 2020 Virtual Training

September 14-17, 2020

Sponsored by the Juvenile Division of the
Administrative Office of the Courts

Monday, September 14, 2020

3 CLE hours

9:00 – 9:10 Introduction and Zoom Conference Logistics

9:10 – 10:40 Entering the Client's World, Part I

1.5 CLE hrs

Jill LaComfora, M.S., CCC/SLP

Race, Class, and Culture Circle Exercise

Understanding the Child's Development Level

Child welfare attorneys must have a basic understanding of child development to appreciate the child's circumstances, advocate for appropriate services, and shape the legal theory of the case. This session will provide an understanding of child development at various ages and stages.

Family Dynamics
Child Development

10:40 – 10:50 Break

10:50 – 11:50 Entering the Client's World, Part II

1.0 CLE hrs

Emily Robbins, LCSW

Rephrasing Exercise

Effects of Trauma and Loss

It is imperative that attorneys understand the physical and emotional consequences of trauma and the neurotoxic effect of the human stress hormone cortisol, particularly as it relates to successful advocacy for clients involved in child welfare. Having a basic understanding of these issues will assist attorneys in identifying effective tools for communicating with their clients and seeking appropriate services to address client needs.

Family Dynamics
Child Development
Grief and Attachment

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

3 CLE hours

9:00 – 10:30 Dependency-Neglect Proceedings, Policy, and Practice

1.5 CLE hrs

Janet Bledsoe, J.D., CWLS

Stasia McDonald, J.D.

This session will be an overview for attorneys of how a dependency-neglect case begins and the journey through the court system from the filing of the petition through final disposition of the case. Relevant state and federal law will be discussed, as well as applicable DCFS policy and practice tips for attorneys representing children and parents.

DCFS Policy & Procedure
Relevant State & Federal Law
Attorney Roles & Responsibilities

10:30 – 10:40 Break

10:40 – 12:10 Dependency-Neglect Proceedings, Policy and Practice, Cont.

1.5 CLE hrs

Wednesday, September 16, 2020**3.75 CLE hours**

9:00 – 10:00 1.0 CLE hrs	Child Safety Decision-Making Threat/No Threat Exercise Overview of Safety Assessment Models <i>Janet Bledsoe, J.D., CWLS</i> <i>Stasia McDonald, J.D.</i> Attendees are introduced to the ABA risk assessment model in which the lawyer participates with the child welfare team in assessing the threat of danger, the vulnerability of the child, and protective capacities of the caregivers and the child. The model requires identification of threats to the child, a determination of whether the child is vulnerable, and an assessment of protective capacities to mitigate threats. The safety framework may be used to explore possibilities in a case, educate clients and other professionals, and as a framework for advocacy both in and out of court. Discussion will also include an overview of how safety is assessed by DCFS.	Attorney Roles & Responsibilities DCFS Policy & Procedure Child Development Custody & Visitation Family Dynamics DCFS Policy & Procedures
10:00 – 10:45 0.75 CLE hrs	Exercise in Emergency Removal and Placement <i>Phil Beuth, J.D.</i> Marco and Lily at Probable Cause: This exercise will reinforce learning objectives from previous sessions. Participants will be asked to focus particularly on entering the client's world, assessing safety, and framing the case.	Attorney Roles & Responsibilities Dynamics of Abuse & Neglect DCFS Policy & Procedure Child Development Custody & Visitation Family Dynamics Relevant State & Federal Law
10:45 – 10:55	Break	
10:55 – 11:55 1.0 CLE hrs	Identifying the Problem Actively Evaluate Client's Needs Develop a Forward-looking Theory of the Case <i>Phil Beuth, J.D.</i> To properly evaluate a case, you must not only gather information relating to what is contained in the petition, but you must also understand what is necessary to advocate effectively for your client. This session will familiarize participants with evaluations and assessments that are commonly used in child welfare proceedings—including their limitations. Developing a theory of the case helps the lawyer identify goals for the case, both long-term and short-term.	Attorney Roles & Responsibilities Dynamics of Abuse & Neglect DCFS Policy & Procedure Child Development Relevant State & Federal Law Custody & Visitation Family Dynamics
11:55 – 12:55 1.0 CLE hrs	Non-Adversarial vs. Adversarial Case Resolution <i>Anna Imbeau, J.D.</i> This session will explore needs and advocacy corollaries to assist attorneys in identifying intermediate and permanency goals in a child welfare case. Child welfare cases are uniquely collaborative and frequently involve cross-disciplinary interaction to accomplish case goals. It is also essential for attorneys to utilize traditional trial advocacy tools.	Attorney Roles & Responsibilities DCFS Policy & Procedure Relevant State & Federal Law

Thursday, September 17, 2020**3.5 CLE hours**

9:00 – 9:30 0.5 CLE hrs	Advocacy Corollary Exercise <i>Phil Beuth, J.D.</i> Participants will have an opportunity to demonstrate that they understand the concept of identifying client needs and the appropriate level of advocacy to accomplish both intermediate and permanency goals.	Attorney Roles & Responsibilities Relevant State & Federal Law DCFS Policy & Procedure
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<p>9:30 – 10:15 0.75 CLE hrs</p>	<p>Advance Case Planning <i>Brian Welch, J.D.</i> Facilitating development of an appropriate case plan is an essential skill for lawyers in child welfare. Case planning should not be left entirely in the hands of the agency and service providers. Both child clients and the parents have a significant interest in whether the case plan identifies the true needs of the family and whether the services are appropriately focused and targeted to address those needs.</p>	<p>Attorney Roles & Responsibilities Relevant State & Federal Law Child Development Dynamics of Abuse & Neglect Family Dynamics Custody & Visitation DCFS Policy & Procedure</p>
10:15 – 10:20 Break		
<p>10:20 – 11:05 0.75 CLE hrs</p>	<p>Exercise in Case Planning and Disposition <i>Brian Welch, J.D.</i> Marco’s Case Part 2: This activity brings the case beyond adjudication to case planning and disposition. This scenario is designed to reinforce the skills covered up to this point.</p>	<p>Attorney Roles & Responsibilities Relevant State & Federal Law Child Development Dynamics of Abuse & Neglect Family Dynamics Custody & Visitation DCFS Policy & Procedure</p>
<p>11:05-11:35 0.5 CLE hrs</p>	<p>Exercise in Permanency Planning <i>Brian Welch, J.D.</i> Marco’s Case Part 3: In this activity, participants will be asked to focus on determining the child’s needs and wishes, adopt an appropriate case plan, develop a theory of the case, and identify advocacy corollaries.</p>	<p>Attorney Roles & Responsibilities Relevant State & Federal Law Child Development Dynamics of Abuse & Neglect Family Dynamics Custody & Visitation DCFS Policy & Procedures</p>
<p>11:40 – 12:40 1.0 CLE hrs</p>	<p>Monitoring Well-Being and Aging Out of Foster Care <i>Janet Bledsoe, J.D., CWLS</i> <i>Stasia McDonald, J.D.</i> Attorneys need to be familiar with substantive law addressing a child’s well-being and their role in monitoring and advocating for the child’s well-being needs. During this period in foster care many things affecting the child’s overall well-being are at risk. The attorney has a significant role in protecting the child’s relationship with the parents, defending sibling connections, and in getting proper medical care and educational services.</p>	<p>Attorney Roles & Responsibilities Dynamics of Abuse & Neglect Child Development Custody & Visitation Family Dynamics DCFS Policy & Procedure Relevant State & Federal Law</p>
12:40 – 12:50 Wrap-Up		