INTRODUCTION TO CHILD WELFARE & CHILD IN NEED OF CARE COURTS IN KANSAS

Curriculum Overview

2010
University of Kansas
School of Social Welfare
Child Welfare Resource Network
Welcome and Overview
Resources for Self-Guided Study & Desk Aids
Glossary of Terms & List of Common Acronyms
Selections from Kansas Code for Care of Children
Selections from SRS Program & Policy Manual

Module A
Introduction to Kansas Courts and the Child Welfare System
Part One – Self-Guided Study
Overview & History–Role of Courts in Child Protection
Powers of the Court
Language of CINC Law, Federal Legislation & Ks Code
Courts and Adoption and Safe Families Act
Child and Family Service Reviews & the Courts
Basic Civil Court Procedures
Types of Court Hearings
Resources
Judicial Districts of Kansas
Judicial Decision-making
ASFA Case Review Timeline
Child Welfare, Legislative and Court Timeline
Recommended Reading
Part Two – Interactive Learning
Civil Court Process & CINC Cases
Exploring the Kansas Code for the Care of Children

Module B
Kansas Child Welfare and CINC Court Cases
Part One – Self-Guided Study
Brief Overview & History of Child Welfare
Key Guiding Legislation
Timeline of Major Child Welfare Legislation
Child Welfare Services in Kansas
Social Work and Adoption & Safe Families Act
ASFA Timeline
Child and Family Service Reviews & the Courts
Resources
Kansas Child Welfare Process
Kansas Child Welfare Providers
Parents’ Bill of Rights
Recommended Reading
Part Two – Interactive Learning
Exploring the Child Welfare Outcomes from the CFSR (Child Family Service Review)
Linking the Languages of the Courts and Child Welfare

Module C
Role of Documentation and Reporting in Kansas CINC Court Proceedings
Part One – Self-Guided Study
Case Work & Documentation the Foundation for Communication in CINC Cases
Role of Child Welfare Professionals
Key Judicial Decision-Points
Court Reports and Factual Reporting
Professional Writing in Child Welfare
Resources
Judicial Preferences for Court Reports
SRS & CBCWS Reports and Documentation
Desk Aid Sample Child Protection Objectives
Recommended Reading
Part Two – Interactive Learning
Using the Code to Inform Child Welfare Work
Documentation and Judicial Decision-Making

Module D
Child Welfare Courtroom Interactions in CINC Proceedings
Part One – Self-Guided Study
Roles & Responsibilities in CINC Courtrooms
Formality in Courtrooms vs Informality in Child Welfare
Interacting and Working with Judges
Advice from the Field: Courtroom Decorum
Advice from the Field: Preparing Psychologically
Resources
First Impressions and the Harvard On-Line Bias Test
Advice from the Field: Preparing for CINC Court
Tool Box for Managing Stress
Recommended Reading
Part Two – Interactive Learning
Legal & Professional Ethical & Practice Perspectives
Professionalism and Courtroom Decorum

Part Three – Video Panel Discussion
A half-day panel discussion and video Understanding the Child Welfare System and Child in Need of Care Courts in Kansas during which a Judge, district/county attorney, parent’s attorney, guardian ad litem, an SRS social worker and a private contractor social worker/case manager discuss each one’s role and perspective in child in need of care proceedings in Kansas courts. A local panel of similar format will view and discuss the video so that participants better understand the experience and perspectives of judicial, legal and social work professionals from the region.
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The Training Series
Introduction to Child Welfare and Child in Need of Care Courts in Kansas is a multidimensional, three-part training series designed to prepare social work students and child welfare professionals new to the field to navigate the child in need of care (CINC) court system in Kansas. Special emphasis is placed on building a foundation for understanding the various roles, responsibilities and perspectives of participants in the court process. From this foundation, workers will link skills for testifying and writing court reports to judicial decision across the life of a child welfare case.

Goals of the Series
This series is designed to provide an introduction to and a foundation for understanding the needs of the professional participants involved in the child welfare system and Kansas child in need of care courts as well as the court system itself. Goals of the series include providing participants with an understanding of:

(1) Kansas Child in Need of Care Courts,
(2) Kansas child welfare as related to Kansas CINC courts,
(3) the role of case plans supporting written documentation such as court reports,
    and of testifying as they relate to judicial decision-making, and
(5) professional interactions in Kansas CINC courtrooms.

Series Overview

Part One of the curriculum consists of a self-directed guide to Kansas child welfare and child in need of care (CINC) courts. The self-study guide includes four modules each of which contains content, exercises and resources developed from an extensive bibliography.

Module A: Introduction to Kansas Courts and the Child Welfare System
Module B: Kansas Child Welfare & CINC Court Cases
Module C: Role of Documentation and Reporting in Ks CINC Court Proceedings;
Module D: Child Welfare Courtroom Interactions in CINC Proceedings

Part Two consists of an interactive learning event in which participants will explore elements of Kansas child welfare and CINC court proceedings through in-depth discussion and learning activities based on the four modules outlined above.
Part Three of the curriculum is structured as a half-day interactive learning experience. The video Understanding the Child Welfare System & Child in Need of Care Courts in Kansas features a Judge, district/county attorney, parent’s attorney, guardian ad litem, an SRS social worker and a private contractor social worker/case manager discussing their roles and perspectives over the life of a child welfare case in Kansas CINC courts. A local panel of judicial, legal and social work professionals then provides an opportunity for participants to explore issues discussed in the video relevant to their specific jurisdictions. Part Three is designed for use after participants have completed both the Self Guided Study and the Interactive Learning Modules.

Note to Educators, Trainers, or Supervisors

This series is flexibly designed to be used in a number of different ways. If you are an educator or trainer, a group leader or supervisor and are planning to use the series, you’ll want to explore the Facilitator’s Guide which will provide suggestions for implementing the series. For example, the Self-Study may be used sequentially with interactive learning interspersed as in-service or classroom modules. Alternatively, all four modules of the Self Study might be completed and followed with a half- or full-day interactive learning session. The Facilitators Guide will provide additional details and options.
CURRICULUM SERIES CREDITS

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