

Guardian ad Litem Basic Training

A: Overview of the Juvenile Court System
Trainer: Jon M. Braaten, J.D.

Materials: *Juvenile Court: A Practitioner's Primer*

Learning Objective:

1. Participants will understand the basic steps of the process of abuse and neglect cases in the Juvenile Court System

B: Relevant state and federal statutes and policy, case law, and Supreme Court Guidelines
Trainer: Mark Ells, J.D.

Materials: *Child Welfare Law and Practice (Ventrell & Duquette, Eds.)*

Red Book: Nebraska Revised Statutes: Selected Provisions Pertaining to Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

Nebraska Guidelines for Guardians ad Litem for Juveniles in Juvenile Court Proceedings

Mexican National Minors and Multiple National Minors Policy and Guidebook

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will be familiar with relevant general federal statutes and case law and will know where to find the basics in a provided resource.

2. Participants will be familiar with relevant state statutes and will be provided a resource.

3. Participants will be familiar with significant relevant Nebraska case law including a review of recent cases.

4. Participants will have an understanding the Indian Child Welfare Act.

5. Participants will have an understanding of the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Mexican States and the State of Nebraska of the United States of America, Department of Human Services, Regarding Consular Notification and Access in Cases Involving Minors.*

6. Participants will have a general understanding of the newly developed *Nebraska Guidelines for Guardians ad Litem for Juveniles in Juvenile Court Proceedings.*

7. Participants will understand their role, duties, and authority as a guardian ad litem in abuse/neglect cases.

8. Participants will consider some of the ethical issues confronted by guardians ad litem in abuse/neglect cases.

9. Participants will have a general understanding of best practices for attorneys representing children's interests in abuse/neglect cases.

C: Advocating for children

Trainer: Mark Ells, J.D.

Materials: *Child Welfare Law and Practice (Ventrell & Duquette, Eds.)*

Learning objectives:

1. Participants will have a basic understanding of various trial advocacy approaches that may be useful in promoting the best interests of children in abuse and neglect cases.

2. Participants will know the basics of educational advocacy for maltreated children and children in foster care.

D: Talking to children, parents, and caregivers

Trainer: Barb Sturgis, M.L.S, Ph.D.

Materials: *Language Development*

Talking to Children, Parents, and Caregivers

Learning objectives:

1. Participants will know general principles regarding interviewing children and adults.

2. Participants will know what information they should be providing to the children they represent.

3. Participants will know what information they should be gathering from children, parents, and caregivers.

E: Child maltreatment in the context of other factors
Trainer: Gregg Wright, M.D.

Materials: *Understanding Children’s Sexual Behaviors*

Mental and Physical Conditions Encountered in Child Protection and Juvenile Justice

Long-Term Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect

Unequal Treatment: What Healthcare Providers Need to know about Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care

Learning objectives:

1. Participants will have a basic understanding of child maltreatment and circumstances in which child maltreatment is most likely to occur.
2. Participants will have a basic understanding of the contributions of substance abuse, parental mental health problems, and domestic violence to child maltreatment.
3. Participants will have a basic understanding of the impact of poverty, including homelessness and unemployment, on child maltreatment.
4. Participants will have a basic understanding of the relationship between cultural context and child maltreatment.

F: Relationships
Trainer: Gregg Wright, M.D.

Materials: *Visitation With Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care: What Judges and Attorneys Need to Know*

Sibling Issues in Foster Care and Adoption

Learning objectives:

1. Participants will have a basic understanding of attachment and the effects of separation and loss on children.

2. Participants will have a basic understanding of interventions that support parent-child relationships.
3. Participants will have a basic understanding of interventions that support children's relationships with their siblings.
4. Participants will have a basic understanding of the critical role of visitation in protecting children's attachments.

G: Child developmental considerations
Trainer: Gregg Wright, M.D.

Materials: *Development Wheel*

*Mental and Physical Conditions Encountered in
Child Protection and Juvenile Justice*

Denver Developmental Screening Record Form

*Addressing the Needs of Young Children in Child
Welfare: Part C-Early Intervention Services*

Learning objectives:

1. Participants will have a basic understanding of the impact of child maltreatment and foster care on child development including attachment development.
2. Participants will have a basic understanding of developmentally related needs and vulnerabilities of children.
3. Participants will have a basic understanding of the impact of child maltreatment and foster care on educational success and the educational needs of these children.