

Executive Summary **Court Procedures**

Course Description

The Court Procedures Training provides an overview of the court process, the roles of court officers, and the roles of the social worker and family in operating through the court. The training will also review the dates and timelines for court appearances and requirements. The course utilizes lecture, case studies, small group interaction, and case scenarios to help participants integrate the information.

Target Audience

This training is appropriate for new workers. New workers will be exposed to court processes and roles of court officers in the practice of child welfare practice.

Outcome Objectives

1. Explain the concept of due process as it applies to juvenile dependency court proceedings including purposes, timeframes and standards of evidence that pertain to the following court hearings.
2. Recognize laws and/or legal procedures that relate to the Child welfare as well as the permanency options for dependent children: reunification, adoption, voluntary relinquishment, legal guardianship, permanent placement with a fit and willing relative, and identified placement with a specific goal.
3. Recognize the respective roles of bench officers, guardians ad litem, CASAs, county counsel, mediators, and attorneys who represent parents, defacto parents, and minors.
4. Identify basic principles for working effectively with attorneys and judicial staff.
5. Describe the child welfare worker's role in providing information to families about legal proceedings.

Ways that Supervisors can support the Transfer of Learning from the classroom to the job...

BEFORE the training

1. Supervisors should ask the worker to talk about how it feels to have to deal with a court appearance remembering a time when he/she has been involved in court or legal involvement of any kind. Ask the trainee to consider how confusing and overwhelming it is to try to negotiate and to think how it would feel to not know about the timelines that went with the involvement.
2. Supervisors should ask the trainee what his/her perceived obligation is to the family about court.

AFTER the training

1. Supervisors should ask the trainee to make a list of the court time frames important to a family.
2. Supervisors should ask the trainee to identify 3 strategies to work effectively with attorneys, court employees, and the judge.