Caseworker Core Module III: Legal Aspects of Family-Centered Child Protective Services

Agenda and Objectives

Section I: Welcome and Introductions

Objectives:
- Trainees will get to know one another and the trainer.
- Trainees will identify their learning needs specific to this workshop.

Section II: Civics 101

Objectives:
- Trainees will understand the three branches of government structure and the sources of law.
- Trainees will understand the legal basis for court-ordered protective services provided by public child welfare agencies.
- Trainees will understand the overview of major federal legislation that impacts child welfare.
- Trainees will understand the overall court and child welfare system structure.

Section III: Client/Customer Civil Rights and Mandated Reporters

Objectives:
- Trainees will understand the overview of multiple civil rights issues, including, but not limited to, rights of parents and legal basis for various civil rights.
- Trainees will review information regarding mandated reports of suspected abuse and/or neglect.
- Trainees will understand how to protect children while protecting parents’ rights.
Section IV: Investigations, Interviews and Assessments

Objectives:

- Trainees will understand the overview of the interview and investigation process related to reports of abuse and/or neglect.
- Trainees will understand the role of law enforcement relating to police protective custody and involvement with interviews and investigations of reports or abuse and/or neglect.
- Trainees will understand the rights of alleged perpetrators related to allegations of abuse and/or neglect.
- Trainees will understand the basis for and guidance related to confidentiality of information/documentation.
- Trainees will understand the importance of skills for preparation of quality documentation.

Section V: Administrative Appeals

Objectives:

- Trainees will understand the process for Administrative Appeals involving appeals from Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) findings related to abuse and/or neglect allegations.
- Trainees will review DCF attorneys’ role in the Administrative Appeal process.
- Trainees will understand the criteria for a quality Appeal Summary.

Section VI: Judicial and Quasi-Judicial Proceedings

Objectives:

- Trainees will understand the different types of legal actions that may impact Child In Need of Care (CINC) cases.
- Trainees will understand the juvenile court process: petition emergency (ex parte) and temporary court orders; adjudicatory and dispositional hearings; and permanency/review hearings.
- Trainees will understand the overview of CINC actions.
- Trainees will understand definitions of abuse and neglect and determine which situations fall within each category.
Section VII – Parties, Definitions and Roles

Objectives:

- Trainees will understand the roles of the parties/participants in child protective proceedings in juvenile court.
- Trainees will understand different types of evidence.
- Trainees will understand burden of proof and the different standards of proof.

Section VIII – Documentation and Writing Skills

Objectives:

- Trainees will understand the importance of quality documentation for court appearances and testimony.

Section IX: Court Proceedings

Objectives:

- Trainees will understand the CINC process and the different types of hearings.
- Trainees will understand the “reasonable efforts” requirement and exceptions to the requirement.
- Trainees will understand Another Planned Permanency Placement Arrangement (APPLA).

Section X: Basic Evidence

Objectives:

- Trainees will understand how to gather and document pertinent information and prepare a case for filing and presentation to the court.
- Trainees will further review different types of evidence and admissibility of evidence.
- Trainees will understand the worker’s role and responsibility in the courtroom and what constitutes effective testimony.
Section XI: Workers as Witnesses

Objectives:
- Trainees will understand how to prepare to testify in court.
- Trainees will understand the principles of effective testimony and how to maintain composure during cross-examination.
- Trainees will practice testifying in court.

Section XII: Agency Worker Liability

Objectives:
- Trainees will understand how to generally avoid worker and agency liability.

Section XIII: Evaluation and Close

Objectives:
- Trainees will identify ideas or skills learned in the workshop that they will use on their jobs.