



Children's Commission.

Attorney Resource Letter:

For Attorneys Handling Child Protective Services Cases

March 16, 2017

Current and Upcoming MCLEs on CPS-related Issues

Here are two reminders about CLE that is available through the Children's Commission website, along with a Save the Date announcement for upcoming MCLEs this spring and summer.

ABA Teleconference Series: Youth Transitioning from Foster Care to Adulthood

The American Bar Association's Children's Rights Litigation Committee, along with the Juvenile Law Center, recently hosted a series of teleconferences focused on the issue of youth transitioning from foster care to adulthood. Each teleconference session focuses on assuring a successful transition for youth and includes discussions of the role of lawyers and the courts for transitioning youth; legal issues facing transitioning youth; transition planning for special populations; and permanency and connections for transitioning youth. The Children's Commission has partnered with the State Bar of Texas to offer 1.5 MCLE credit hours for each of the five replay sessions. For more information including links to and descriptions of each of the replays, as well as information about how to claim MCLE credit, please visit the Children's Commission Continuing Legal Education webpage found at this link: [http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/training/continuing-legal-education-\(cle\).aspx](http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/training/continuing-legal-education-(cle).aspx)

MCLE Video on Trauma-Informed Advocacy for Attorneys

Following the [Trauma-Informed Care survey and report](#) issued by Texas CASA in 2015, the Children's Commission, in partnership with Texas CASA and the Shield Ayers Foundation, created a one-hour training to help introduce trauma-informed care to Attorneys ad Litem, Guardians ad Litem and CASA volunteers. The presentation includes strategies for advocating for children in courtrooms, schools, and placements to meet each child's unique needs. There is also discussion about how trauma influences a child's ability to communicate about the case and how to appropriately respond to a child's trauma-related behaviors. Please link here and scroll down to the second offering to view the training on Trauma-Informed Advocacy for Children and Youth in Foster Care and for more information on how to claim MCLE credit: [http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/training/continuing-legal-education-\(cle\).aspx](http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/training/continuing-legal-education-(cle).aspx)

Save the Date! Upcoming MCLE Opportunities

Attorney Scholarships to the 2017 Child Abuse and Neglect Track at the annual State Bar of Texas Advanced Family Law CLE

The State Bar of Texas' Family Law Section offers a day-long Child Abuse and Neglect training each year during its Advanced Family Law Course. Under the leadership of the State Bar's Child Abuse and Neglect Committee, this one-day CLE covers current topics of interest to Texas attorneys who practice on the CPS docket. The Children's Commission will be offering registration scholarships to this one-day MCLE

track. Please look for an announcement in April from the Children's Commission with links to the scholarship application and the program agenda. For now, please save these dates for The State Bar of Texas' Advanced Family Law Seminar's 1-Day Child Abuse and Neglect track: live in San Antonio, Texas on Wednesday, August 9th, 2017, with video replays in Houston on Friday, September 22nd; in Dallas on Friday, September 29th; and in South Padre Island on Friday, October 13th, 2017.

CPS-Related Legislative Update: 1:30 – 3 pm on July 24, 2017

In partnership with the State Bar of Texas, the Children's Commission will present a 1.5 hour MCLE (including .25 hours of ethics) on Monday, July 24th, 2017, from 1:30-3 pm entitled "Child Protection Legislative Update: 85th Legislative Session." This presentation will be of interest to all practitioners on the CPS docket and will include in-depth coverage of SB 11. The speakers will be Judge Dean Rucker, Jurist in Residence for the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission, Presiding Judge, Seventh Administrative Judicial Region of Texas, and Tina Amberboy, Executive Director of the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission. Please look for an announcement later this spring from the Children's Commission with links to registration and program information for this CLE.

Trial Skills in the CPS Case: 6 hours of MCLE on August 29, 2017

In partnership with the State Bar of Texas, the Children's Commission will present a 6 hour MCLE (including ethics hours, TBD) on Tuesday, August 29th, 2017, entitled "Trial Skills in the CPS Case: Litigation Tips for All Practitioners." This presentation will be of interest to all practitioners on the CPS docket and will include practical tips and traps to watch out for, from Voir Dire and Case Strategy through Closing Argument. The speakers will be experienced judges and attorneys from across the state who are members of the Children's Commission's Trial Skills Training Faculty. The estimated times for this presentation are from 9:30-4:30 CT with a mid-day break. Please look for an announcement later this spring from the Children's Commission with links to registration and program information for this CLE.



Follow us on Twitter [@TXChildrensComm](https://twitter.com/TXChildrensComm)

To join this list or unsubscribe, please link [here](#).

Information provided by the Children's Commission should not be read as a commentary by the Supreme Court of Texas or any other court. The Children's Commission website is not equipped to facilitate dialogue or conversation about matters related to the information in this communique. For more information about the Children's Commission, please visit our website at texaschildrenscommission.gov