



Children's Commission.

Attorney Resource Letter:

For Attorneys Handling Child Protective Services Cases

November 18, 2016

Foster Care & Education Survey: Deadline Today

In an effort to improve education outcomes for students in foster care, the Children's Commission, in collaboration with DFPS, TEA, UT Austin, and other education and child welfare partners, developed a survey to assess best practices and areas for improvement around the state. The survey will close at **5pm today**. Please take 10-15 minutes to provide critical input from the attorney perspective. You can link to the survey here: [Students in foster care: An examination of current practices](#). Thank you!

New MCLE Video on Trauma-Informed Advocacy for Attorneys

Following the [Trauma-Informed Care survey and report](#) issued last year by Texas CASA, 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. This training was recorded in front of a live audience at the Heman Marion Sweatt Travis County Courthouse on September 27, 2016, and was presented by Elizabeth Watkins, JD, Regional Attorney for the Department of Family and Protective Services, and is available to view for MCLE credit. Please link here 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)



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