



Children's Commission.

Attorney Resource Letter:

For Attorneys Handling Child Protective Services Cases

October 28, 2016

Students in Foster Care: An Examination of Current Practices

The Children's Commission Foster Care & Education Local Collaboration Workgroup in partnership with DFPS, TEA, The University of Texas at Austin Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing at the School of Social Work, and other education and child welfare stakeholders developed a multi-disciplinary survey to assess local coordination and collaboration related to the education of students in foster care. Please take 10-15 minutes to complete this important survey and provide insights from the attorney perspective. The results will inform statewide efforts to highlight best practices and focus attention where it is needed most. Link here to take the survey: [Students in foster care: An examination of current practices](#). The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, November 18, 2016. Thank you!

Archived MCLE on CPS-related Issues

Three recent live MCLEs on CPS-specific issues have been archived in the Online Classroom of Texas Bar CLE: "Effective Representation of Children and Aged Out Foster Youth: Beyond the Basics;" "Tips and Traps from Appointment Through Trial: Effective Representation of a Parent in a CPS Case;" and "Special Issues in CPS Parent Representation." To access these webinars and all of the current CPS-related MCLE available through the State Bar of Texas, simply select the CPS Library option from the list of topics on this page: <http://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE/OCSearch2.asp>. Some or all of the content of these webinars may be considered in some jurisdictions to satisfy the educational requirements for court-appointed attorneys under Texas Family Code Sections 107.004 and 107.0131.

Especially for those attorneys who watched the live broadcasts on 8/23/16: please note that content has been added to two out of the three webinars since they were originally publicized.

"Effective Representation of Children and Aged Out Foster Youth: Beyond the Basics" now contains a brief review of the new federal education law entitled "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA), along with a presentation on the provisions related to educational stability for children and youth in care and related tips for the AAL.

Also, "Tips and Traps from Appointment Through Trial: Effective Representation of a Parent in a CPS Case" now includes a brief overview of the Indian Child Welfare Act with specifics on the new Federal Rule from the Department of the Interior. This content includes practical tips for the parent attorney, including information on Active Efforts and Qualified Expert Witnesses in ICWA cases.

Viewer discounts are available for qualifying attorneys upon registration. Whether an attorney qualifies for a discount or not, any attorney who has financial need can access the Bar's scholarship form on the CPS Online Classroom page.



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