

Caseworker Core Module 3: Agenda and Learning Objectives

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION – 30 MINUTES

Objectives

Participants will:

- Be acquainted with one another and the trainer.
- Gain an overview of the training content.
- Identify their learning needs specific to this workshop.

SECTION 2: LEGAL FRAMEWORK: WHAT LAWS GOVERN CASEWORK PRACTICE AND WHERE DO THEY COME FROM? – 1 HOUR 30 MINUTES

Objectives

Participants will

- Describe the role of the legal system in child welfare and how it is used to protect children and families.
- Communicate the importance of adhering to the provisions of federal and state statutes and rules in child welfare casework.
- Revisit important federal laws impacting child welfare.
- Receive introduction to Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code, and learn how to locate pertinent statutes and rules.

SECTION 3: LEGAL RIGHTS OF ALL INVOLVED – 1 HOUR

Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate basic understanding of the importance of ensuring parents', children's, and caseworkers' rights including:
 - Equal protection under the law
 - Parents' rights to due process
 - Freedom from search and seizure without a warrant
- Explain confidentiality rights for families and those who report concerns.
- Explain the reasonable efforts requirement and exceptions.
- Reflect on how failure to protect and advocate for family's rights impacts disproportionality in child welfare.
- Articulate how insufficient or inaccurate knowledge about a family's safety threats, risk, as well as strengths and needs, can influence recommendations to the court and contribute to disproportionality in the child welfare system.

SECTION 4: USING THE LEGAL SYSTEM FOR CHILD WELFARE WORK – 2 HOURS

Objectives

Participants will:

- Participants will be able to articulate the legal basis for services provided by public child welfare agencies.
- Utilize CAPM concepts and tools to aid in making legal decisions and preparation for court.

SECTION 5: THE COURT SYSTEMS, PROCESSES, AND PROCEDURES: COLLATERAL COURT SYSTEMS – 30 MINUTES

Objectives

Participants will:

- Differentiate between court systems.

- Be able to understand how different court systems and procedures outside of child protection connect to casework practice.

SECTION 6: AVOIDING LEGAL LIABILITY – 30 MINUTES

Objective

Participants will:

- Be able how to explain how following O.R.C., O.A.C., and PCSA policy and procedure can protect themselves and their agencies from legal liability.
- Connect the NASW Code of Ethics and model Practice Skills Profiles to avoiding legal liability in practice.
- Understand the benefits and limitations of Qualified Immunity aka Normalcy and the steps caseworkers must take to avoid liability.

SECTION 7: WORKING THROUGH THE COURT PROCESS – 1 HOUR 30 MINUTES

Objectives

Participants will:

- Introduce participants to the processes and procedures of Juvenile Court.
- Describe the documentation needed prior to each court hearing.
- Describe the methods for initiating court involvement and taking a child into custody.
- Outline the content needed in reports and filings to achieve a positive outcome in court.
- Be introduced to various types of hearings their cases might encounter.
- Understand types of evidence used in Juvenile Court proceedings.

SECTION 8: PREPARING FOR COURT – 1 HOURS 30 MINUTES

Objectives

Participants will:

- Understand the roles and responsibilities of each courtroom participant.
- Be introduced to processes and people involved in trial.
- Introduced to the importance of being prepared and collaborative with attorneys.
- Begin to understand how a trial proceeding unfolds and develops.

SECTION 9: TRIAL BY FIRE: TESTIFYING IN COURT – 2 HOURS 30 MINUTES

Objectives

Participants will:

- Be able to explain how to prepare to testify in court.
- Be able to describe the principles of effective testimony and how to maintain composure during cross-examination.
- Gain some beginning level skills in testifying in court.

SECTION 10: TRANSFER OF LEARNING AND CLOSE – 30 MINUTES

Objective

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