

Attorney Resources

Trainings

The Corinne Wolfe Center for Child and Family Justice (CWC) at UNM offers training and numerous free and low-cost resources to attorneys who represent parents or children in abuse and neglect cases. Among other things, the CWC offers a core training, which provides attorneys and judges with essential information for practicing and presiding in child welfare cases. Videos from the past core training may be viewed on the CWC website at your convenience, <http://childlaw.unm.edu/programs>.



[2014 New Mexico Child Welfare Handbook](#) can be viewed on-line. The Handbook is a comprehensive resource guide to New Mexico's child abuse and neglect process and incorporates the applicable requirements of the Children's Code, the Children's Court rules, court cases and federal laws. It summarizes the child abuse and neglect process, describes the roles and responsibilities of certain key participants, explains the hearings that may take place in a case, and addresses other relevant topics, such as related proceedings, evidence, psychological considerations and special provisions for Indian children. Updates can be downloaded. Check CWC's website periodically for updates.

Forms

If you are contracted or appointed as a child welfare attorney, the CWC also has a **form bank** of forms and pleadings that other contract counsel have made available. To access these forms, please go to the CWC website at <http://childlaw.unm.edu/resources/cwc-support-attorneys.html>. You will need a username and password. Please email Cristen Conley at conley@law.unm.edu or call 505-277-5933.

Best Practices Bulletins

The CWC has posted a number of **Best Practice Bulletins** on their website. These bulletins describe innovative practices that are child-focused and family-centered and intended to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in the state's care and can be viewed and downloaded at <http://childlaw.unm.edu/>.

Attorney Specific Listserve

The CWC hosts an on-line list serve discussion group for respondents' attorneys as well as one for guardians ad litem and youth attorneys. Attorneys may post questions to the list serve for discussion and answers from attorneys throughout the state. Contact Cristen Conley at conley@law.unm.edu or call 505-277-5933 to join the pertinent list serve. In addition, the

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CWC has attorneys who are experienced in representing parents and children in these cases and who are available to answer questions about practice in Children's Court. Please contact Cristen Conley at 505-277-5933 or Conley@law.unm.edu if you have specific questions.

Children's Law Section

The New Mexico State Bar also has a **Children's Law Section**. The Section works closely with the CWC to co-sponsor trainings including periodic "Noon-Knowledge Programs" which address current topics of interest to practicing attorneys. For more information about the Children's Law Section, please visit the website

<http://www.nmbar.org/AboutSBNM/sections/ChildrensLaw/childrenssection.html>

Annual Children's Law Institute

The legal and child welfare communities in New Mexico come together every January in one of the largest conferences of its kind in the country. The Annual Children's Law Institute is always held in January every year, unless otherwise specified. At the CLI you can attend sessions on professionalism/ethics, practice and procedure relating to abuse and neglect cases, as well as juvenile justice. Information is posted at <http://www.childrenslawinstitute.org> as it becomes available for the current year and the website has most of the previous conference trainings that were provided.

Additional Links:

[ABA Child Law Practice Related to Parent Representation](#)

[ABA Center on Children and the Law](#)

[National Association of Counsel for Children](#) – become certified!

[Annie E. Casey Foundation](#)

[New Mexico Kids Count Data](#)