



State Court Administrative Office Child Welfare Services

Online Resources

For more information about the State Court Administrative Office Child Welfare Services Division, please visit <http://courts.mi.gov/SCAO-CWS> or contact Kate McPherson at McphersonK@courts.mi.gov.

The State Court Administrative Office Child Welfare Services Division (SCAO-CWS) provides assistance to juvenile courts on child welfare matters, including child protective proceedings, foster care, adoption, termination of parental rights, permanency outcomes, and data collection and analysis. CWS administers the Michigan Court Improvement Program and the Foster Care Review Board Program and provides numerous multi-disciplinary trainings each year on a variety of child welfare issues.

CWS strives to provide courts and child welfare professionals with supportive tools and resources. Below is a list of websites we have developed to assist courts and child welfare professionals in their daily activities.

Child Welfare Services Home Page

<http://courts.mi.gov/SCAO-CWSHome>

This webpage will direct you to a multitude of SCAO-CWS resources, services, training programs, and news highlights.

Child Welfare Services Toolkit

<http://courts.mi.gov/cwsToolkit>

SCAO-CWS designed this webpage to provide quick and easy access to information needed by judges and attorneys, including hearing-specific information and detailed topical issue briefs.

Foster Care Review Board Program

<http://courts.mi.gov/FCRBP>

The Foster Care Review Board Program (FCRB) is a system of citizen review established by the Legislature to help ensure safe and timely permanency for children in the state foster care system. Courts may request that the FCRB review a foster care case at any time, which can be especially helpful for cases that are lagging in the system. This webpage elaborates on the roles of the FCRB and the primary services it provides to courts and agencies.

Human Trafficking

<http://courts.mi.gov/HumanTrafficking>

Human trafficking exploits the most vulnerable members of our society, with children in foster care being particularly vulnerable to child sex trafficking. This webpage provides several resources including the National Human Trafficking Hotline, factsheets, reports, NCJFCJ training programs, and a list of anti-trafficking organizations in Michigan.

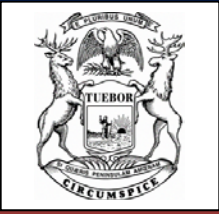
Indian Child Welfare Act – Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act (ICWA/MIFPA)

<http://courts.mi.gov/ICWAMIFPA>

In 1978, Congress enacted the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in recognition of the fact that Indian children were being removed from their homes at a much higher rate than non-Indian children. ICWA is the federal law that governs the removal and out of home placement of Indian children. ICWA established minimum federal requirements that apply to state agency and court proceedings involving Indian children who are members, or eligible for membership, in a federally-recognized tribe. The Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA), effective January 2, 2013, codified the federal ICWA into state law and clarified the court proceedings subject to the Act.

This webpage provides the list of proceedings for which ICWA and MIFPA apply, and multiple resource documents.

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SCAO-CWS Training and Development

<http://courts.mi.gov/scao-cwsTraining>

SCAO-CWS offers judicial, attorney, and field worker trainings targeted toward child welfare system improvement. The training topics are developed collaboratively with Court Improvement Program stakeholders, the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. This webpage provides a list of upcoming programs and recordings of past programs.

CWS Web-Based Meet-ups

<http://courts.mi.gov/cwsmeetup>

CWS has begun to host monthly topic-based "Meet-Ups" through Adobe Connect that are generally 1-1.5 hours long and held over the lunch hour. Attendees can participate through their computer and a conference line. All meet-ups are recorded and archived for later learning/viewing. The purpose of the meet-ups is to educate and train child welfare professionals, as well as provide a virtual forum to share best practices, innovative ideas, and collaborate statewide to improve the child welfare system.

Michigan Child Welfare Training Clearinghouse

<http://courts.mi.gov/cwTraining>

The Michigan Child Welfare Training Clearinghouse is designed to provide a central location for child welfare training opportunities across the State of Michigan from the primary child welfare training providers. This page allows you to browse for programs by profession.

Child Welfare Parent Attorney Training: Preserving Families by Protecting Rights

<http://courts.mi.gov/ParentAttorney>

This webpage includes a recording of a training program on high quality legal representation for parents in child protective proceedings. The training includes a comprehensive overview of the procedural rights provided to parents by statutes, court rules, case law, and DHHS policies. The training reviews the major decisions that must be made in a child protective case (e.g., removal, creation of a service plan, termination of parental rights, etc.), and discusses advocacy techniques that parents' lawyers can use to protect their client's rights. Attorneys will also learn how to preserve issues for the purpose of appeal.

Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Training

<http://courts.mi.gov/PreventingChildSexualAbuse>

This webpage includes a recording of a training program on the legal and behavioral definitions of child sexual abuse, prevalence of child sexual abuse, and data regarding perpetrators and victims in Michigan and the United States. The training reviews how the motivation of offenders provides critical insight to a broader understanding of the issues to be addressed when completing assessments, implementing interventions, safety planning, and identifying child sexual abuse, and how to help children and families heal. Intergenerational trauma and information regarding quality medical evaluations is also included.

Title IV-E Requirements and Resources

<http://courts.mi.gov/TitleIVE>

Title IV-E is an important funding stream for foster care costs. It provides reimbursement for a portion of the foster care maintenance and administrative costs of children who meet specified federal eligibility requirements. Jurists and court staff have an important role in ensuring the court's orders contain proper and timely findings in order to preserve Title IV-E eligibility in a case. This webpage provides helpful links, resources, and a recording of the CWS Title IV-E Refresher Training, which provides an overview of Title IV-E rules and regulations. Judicial findings, best practices, and compliant court orders are also discussed.