

# Keeping Current

A monthly newsletter for CCAN attorneys | Published by Children's Law Center | September 2017

[Upcoming Events](#) | [News](#) | [Reports & Publications](#)

## Upcoming Events

**CCAN Case Rounds: Children in Court Policy, Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 1pm-2pm** at DC Superior Court, Family Court Conference Room (4224).

Do you have questions about the court's Children in Court policy? Want to discuss best practices around bringing youth of all ages to court and/or share ideas about setting up a successful in camera meeting between your client and the judge? Come to case rounds to discuss with your colleagues ideas and experiences around involving clients of all ages in the court process.

**To RSVP, please email [trainings@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:trainings@childrenslawcenter.org) by Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. However, if you do not RSVP you are still welcome to attend!**

**Special Education Half-Day Training, Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am-2:15pm** at DC Superior Court, Family Court Conference Room (4224).

**9:30am – 11:00am: Requesting and Understanding FBA's, PBIP's, and Truancy Assessments**

**Presenter: Paul Livelli, Ph.D.**

This session will review why it's important to request a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA), the process of creating a workable positive behavioral intervention plan (PBIP), and the importance of truancy assessments. Dr. Livelli will review what a FBA entails and the ways in which it can be beneficial for a parent and school to develop an understanding of a child's concerning behavior. Dr. Livelli will also review and discuss ways to implement a PBIP and discuss how positive interventions help deter a child's concerning behavior. Lastly, Dr. Livelli will discuss the importance of advocating for a truancy assessment plan for youth with attendance challenges and how attorneys can place the onus on the school to develop plans to keep students in school.

**11:00-12:30pm: Overview of the Assessment Center and Court-Ordered Education-Related Evaluations**

**Presenters: Debbie Allen (MSW- Assessment Center Coordinator), Seth King, Ph.D., and Sheryl Frank, Ph.D.**

This session will offer an overview of the Assessment Center's referral intake process, including best practices and the limitations on assessments. Additionally, this session will offer guidance on how attorneys can influence referral questions and aid in providing relevant background information to the assessors. Dr. King and Dr. Frank will also offer detailed information on the Assessment Center's approach to forensic psychoeducational and psychological evaluations, the different testing mechanisms used to evaluate youth, and their process of assessing referral information and questions.

**12:45pm – 2:15pm: Understanding Psychological Testing**

**Presenter: Jessica Gurley, Ph.D.**

This session will provide a more in-depth discussion about how to analyze psychological and psychoeducational evaluations, best practices for evaluations, and the various types of academic, cognitive, and social-emotional testing encountered in the education realm. This training will help participants decipher between the credentials of assessors to aid in your advocacy. Dr. Gurley will also discuss the differences between school-based evaluations and independent evaluations and offer practical tips for using evaluations within IEP meetings.

**To RSVP, please email [trainings@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:trainings@childrenslawcenter.org) by Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. However, if you do not RSVP you are still welcome to attend!**

## Don't forget about Children's Law Center's Helpline!

Our **Helpline** provides CCAN attorneys with legal information and advice.

- Staffed by Children's Law Center attorneys
- Confidential
- Legal information and assistance on general and case-specific topics, such as help identifying resources and services, sample pleadings, and other materials
- All Helpline calls are screened to identify potential conflicts of interest

**Call (202) 467-4900 (Option 3) — Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

## Reports and Publications

### **Practice Kit 10: LGBTQ Youth Advocacy** (Children's Law Center, Revised August 2017)

"This practice kit is designed to be a resource to educate child welfare and family law attorneys about the challenges LGBTQ youth in foster care face. LGBTQ youth in foster care face a number of obstacles in navigating services. They can experience barriers when the name on their documents suggest a person with a gender different from the gender he or she projects. LGBTQ youth face particular challenges when it comes to foster care placements, and experiences in other forms of government custody. LGBTQ youth may experience discrimination when looking for jobs or seeking health care. Attorneys representing LGBTQ youth can improve their advocacy by familiarizing themselves with the issues that impact these young people. It is our hope that the information contained in this kit will equip such practitioners to be proactive advocates on behalf of any LGBTQ youth on their caseloads." [Publication](#)

### **Practice Kit 11: Teens Aging Out** (Children's Law Center, Revised August 2017)

"This practice kit includes information for practitioners who advocate for teen clients aging out of the foster care system. It provides information regarding finances, services, housing, legal services, employment, and various other supports adults face on a daily basis. Finally, throughout this practice kit attorneys can see practice pointers for their advocacy with various agencies, including CFSA, on behalf of their teen clients who approach the age of 21." [Publication](#)

### **Ending Family Homelessness** (Urban Institute, August 2017)

"The number of American families that are, or are at risk of, becoming homeless or housing insecure remains stubbornly high. The problem persists, not due to lack of solutions, but for two primary reasons: political will and artificial budget divisions. The pay for success (PFS) model for financing public services offers an opportunity for state and local governments to help overcome these hurdles. This paper considers this potential. It describes how PFS has already been used to fund other types of housing interventions, summarizes the evidence on why housing matters for children and families, considers several evidence-based housing interventions that that could be funded through PFS, and discusses the complexities that such a project might face." [Publication](#)

### **Five Things to Know about Parental Depression** (Child Trends, August 2017)

"Depression is one of the most common mental health disorders in the United States, affecting over 16 million adults. The prevalence of depression among parents of children under age 18 is similar to that in the adult population generally. Both mothers and fathers experience depression, and approximately 15.6 million children—1 in 5—live with a parent who is severely depressed." [Publication](#)

### **Pre-Kindergarten Impacts Over Time: An Analysis of KIPP Charter Schools** (Mathematica Policy Research, August 2017)

"Key Findings: After five years, KIPP Pre-K combined, with KIPP early elementary school, has positive and statistically significant impacts on reading and math achievement; KIPP Pre-K combined, with KIPP early elementary school, may also have a positive impact on students' executive function; KIPP Pre-K may provide an

additional benefit for reading achievement above and beyond KIPP elementary school; The KIPP impact on reading skills persists over time, but impacts on reading comprehension largely dissipate by grade 2.” [Publication](#)

## News

### Local

[DC affordable housing program begins seeing results](#) (Washington City Paper, 8/18/17)

[Despite test gains, fewer than a third of DC students rated as “college and career ready”](#) (The Washington Post, 8/17/17)

[‘I just had to be an expert in George’](#) (Children’s Law Center, 8/16/17)

[Gentrification pushes out ‘affordable housing’ and longtime residents in nation’s capital](#) (The Washington Times, 7/16/17)

[Dangerous mistakes led to shutdown of United Medical Center obstetrics ward](#) (The Washington Post, 8/14/17)

[Breast-feeding center helps build bigger village for new DC moms](#) (WTOP, 8/11/17)

[DC inmates serve time hundreds of miles from home. Is it time to bring them back?](#) (WAMU, 8/10/17)

[They were displaced by fire. Now they’re not sure they can afford a new home.](#) (The Washington Post, 8/10/17)

[Housing challenges for youth aging out of foster care](#) (WAMU, 8/9/17)

### National

[Live in a poor neighborhood? Better be a perfect parent.](#) (The New York Times, 8/22/17)

[Many nurses lack knowledge of health risks to mothers after childbirth](#) (NPR, 8/17/17)

[Often missing from the current health care debate: Women’s voices](#) (NPR, 8/16/17)

[The first thing teachers should do when school starts is talk about hatred in America. Here’s help.](#) (The Washington Post, 8/13/17)

[The art of teaching the youngest students](#) (The Atlantic, 8/11/17)

[Why being a mother while imprisoned is impossible right now](#) (Bustle, 8/10/17)

[Congress’ chance to do right by America’s youth](#) (The Hill, 8/10/17)

[New attitudes toward adoption from foster care offer hope](#) (The Washington Post, 7/24/17)

#### About This Publication

*Keeping Current* is a compilation of relevant news and information, including trainings and events. The materials referenced in *Keeping Current* are intended to be additional resources for consideration by members of the CCAN community, and Children’s Law Center cannot verify the quality of all the materials or events referenced herein. CCAN attorneys should conduct their own independent research when reviewing these materials, and should review the weekly CCAN e-mail for current information.

In a continued effort to improve the utility of its resources, Children’s Law Center has created a quick survey to get feedback on how CCAN attorneys find *Keeping Current* and other resources. Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LFVK7N3>.

**More detailed information on sessions to follow. Please check your monthly *Keeping Current* for updates. Please contact Kristen Pisani-Jacques, Deputy Director of the Guardian ad Litem project, with comments or suggestions at [kpisani@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:kpisani@childrenslawcenter.org) or (202) 750-7527.**