

Advanced Certification in Child Welfare for District Court Judges

Juvenile Court Certification Training for district court judges is based on G.S. 7A-147(c), which reads:

(c) The policy of the State is to encourage specialization in juvenile cases by district court judges who are qualified by training and temperament to be effective in relating to youth and in the use of appropriate community resources to meet their needs. The Administrative Office of the Courts is therefore authorized to encourage judges who hear juvenile cases to secure appropriate training whether or not they were elected to a specialized judgeship as provided herein. Such training shall be provided within the funds available to the Administrative Office of the Courts for such training, and judges attending such training shall be reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses at the same rate as is applicable to other State employees.

The Administrative Office of the Courts shall develop a plan whereby a district court judge may be better qualified to hear juvenile cases by reason of training, experience, and demonstrated ability. Any district court judge who completes the training under this plan shall receive a certificate to this effect from the Administrative Office of the Courts. In districts where there is a district court judge who has completed this training as herein provided, the chief district judge shall give due consideration in the assignment of such cases where practical and feasible.

ADVANCED CERTIFICATION IN CHILD WELFARE REQUIREMENTS

Advanced certification in child welfare requires that a district court judge:

1. Maintain juvenile court certification by completing the required continuing judicial education requirements. To maintain juvenile court certification, a judge must complete six hours of continuing judicial education in each biennium at courses administered by the North Carolina Judicial College at the UNC School of Government or at the Summer or Fall Judges' Conference of the North Carolina Association of District Court Judges. Faculty of the North Carolina Judicial College shall designate qualified courses. These six hours may include designated courses that also are counted toward the twenty-four hours required of a Family Court Judge. Hours shall be submitted by the judge to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).
2. Complete a core advanced certification curriculum approved by the AOC. The core curriculum consists of the following four courses offered through the North Carolina Judicial College at the UNC School of Government. A judge must attend the entire course to receive credit.
 - a. The following two courses that count for both Advanced Certification in Child Welfare and Advanced Certification in Juvenile Justice
 - i. Educational Issues for Systems-Involved Youth (required)
 - ii. Mental Health Issues in Juvenile Court (required)

- b. The following two courses that count only for Advanced Certification in Child Welfare
 - i. Dispositions in A/N/D Court: Structuring Court Ordered Plans (required)
 - ii. A Closer Look at Termination of Parental Rights (required)
3. Complete two child welfare elective courses offered through the North Carolina Judicial College at the UNC School of Government.
 - a. Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (elective)
 - b. Indian Child Welfare Act (elective)
4. Continue to preside over abuse, neglect, and dependency and/or termination of parental rights matters. The Chief District Court Judge must certify to the AOC that the judge is meeting this requirement.

MAINTAINING CERTIFICATION

The requirement for maintaining Advanced Certification in Child Welfare is the same as the requirement to maintain juvenile court certification. A judge must complete six hours of continuing judicial education in each biennium at courses administered by the North Carolina Judicial College at the UNC School of Government or at the Summer or Fall Judges' Conference of the North Carolina Association of District Court Judges. Faculty of the North Carolina Judicial College shall designate qualified courses. These six hours may include designated courses that also are counted toward the twenty-four hours required of a Family Court Judge. Hours shall be submitted by the judge to the AOC.

Certification is administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts. All inquiries regarding certification should be directed to Tracie Hembrick at the AOC (919) 831-5972, or Tracie.M.Hembrick@nccourts.org.

**STATEMENT OF ONGOING ASSIGNMENT TO PRESIDE OVER ABUSE, NEGLECT,
AND DEPENDENCY AND/OR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS MATTERS**

JUVENILE JUDGE ADVANCED CERTIFICATION IN CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM

This is to certify that Judge _____ is assigned to preside over
abuse, neglect, and dependency and/or termination of parental rights matters in the _____
District Court District.

Chief District Court Judge

Date

Return to:

Tracie M. Hembrick, Judicial Services Coordinator
Administrative Office of the Courts
P.O. Box 2448
Raleigh, NC 27602
(919) 831-5973