

Advanced Certification in Juvenile Justice

The following courses are administered by the North Carolina Judicial College at the UNC School of Government. All district court judges presiding over juvenile proceedings are welcome to attend. In courses where space is limited, priority will be given to district court judges who (1) preside over juvenile proceedings and (2) are seeking a certification as a juvenile court judge or one of the advanced juvenile certifications or are currently certified as a juvenile court judge and seeking the mandatory continuing judicial education hours addressing juvenile law.

The following two courses for district court judges are required for the Advanced Certification in Child Welfare and the Advanced Juvenile Certification in Juvenile Justice.

- **Mental Health Issues in Juvenile Court**: This multiday course focuses on children with mental health needs who are the subject of district court proceedings, including delinquency; abuse, neglect, dependency; judicial review of a minor's voluntary admission; or involuntary commitment. This course will (1) examine the laws governing these proceedings that enable a court to enter orders addressing a child's mental health needs, (2) explain the procedure for determining a juvenile's capacity to proceed in a delinquency action, (3) identify common mental health issues children who are the subject of these various types of court proceedings experience, and (4) discuss the North Carolina behavioral health delivery system and services that are available within that system.
- **Educational Issues for Systems-Involved Youth**: This multiday course explores the connection between juvenile court proceedings and the education system, with an emphasis on the educational rights of children. Topics for discussion include, but are not limited to, school enrollment and educational stability for children in foster care; special education; school discipline and school-justice partnerships; the role of law enforcement in schools; the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); and information sharing between juvenile court and schools, including access to school records.

Four additional courses are required for the Advanced Certification in Juvenile Justice.

- **Juvenile Transfer to Superior Court**: This one-day course will focus on the procedure that governs the transfer of delinquency cases to Superior Court for criminal processing, from the filing of the petition through the appeal of a transfer order. Various pathways for transfer, and the situations in which they can be used, will be detailed. Participants will have the opportunity for practical application of the material covered and for discussion of their questions with a panel of experienced judges.
- **What Life is Like in Delinquency Out-of-Home Settings**: This one-day course will provide judges the opportunity to visit out-of-home settings used in delinquency matters. Visits will include a Youth Development Center and a juvenile detention center. If practicable, some classes may include a non-secure congregate care facility. Participants will tour facilities and have the opportunity to talk with staff.

- Two additional juvenile law electives designated as eligible for advance certification in juvenile justice. Additional courses and topics to be determined.
 - Interstate Compact for Juveniles: This half-day, online class will address the law and rules that govern interstate issues related to juvenile justice cases. Topics will include returning out-of-state runaways to their home state, returning out-of-state juveniles who are accused of acts of delinquency to the state in which they are charged, and transferring supervision of a juvenile who is on probation to another state for supervision.
 - Juvenile Capacity to Proceed: This one-day class will provide detailed instruction on the new standard and procedures for juvenile determinations of capacity to proceed. Session Law 2023-114 established a new legal standard that governs whether a juvenile has capacity to proceed in a delinquency matter and created new procedures regarding capacity determination and remediation following a finding that the juvenile is not capable to proceed. This course will focus on the legal and clinical details of the new law, including what the new juvenile capacity standard means, how to understand juvenile capacity evaluations, when a juvenile is eligible for remediation services, what remediation services entail, and how a case may proceed following remediation.