

Attorney Resources

Trainings

The Corinne Wolfe Children's Law Center (CLC) 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 CLC offers a core training, which provides attorneys and judges with essential information for practicing and presiding in child welfare cases. Videos from the core training are available on DVD and also may be viewed on the CLC website at your convenience, <http://childlaw.unm.edu/>.



[The 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. No more printed versions will be available, updates have to be downloaded. Check periodically CLC's website for updates. No more printed versions will be available, manuals and updates will need to be downloaded.

Forms

If you are appointed as a respondent attorney, the CLC also has a **form bank** of forms and pleadings that other respondents' counsel have made available. To access these forms, please ask Tracey to send you the DVD.

Best Practices Bulletins

The CLC 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 CLC 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 Tracey tkincaid@unm.edu, 505-277-9170 to join the pertinent list serve. In addition, the CLC employs, part-time, an attorney who is experienced in representing parents and children in these cases and who is available to answer questions about practice in Children's Court. Please contact Cristen Conley at 505-933-8795 or conderson@juno.com if you have specific questions.

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Children's Law Section

The New Mexico State Bar also has a **Children's Law Section**. The Section works closely with the CLC 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.