

Practice Standards

December, 2012

Section XIII, Standards for Representation of Youth in Youth Court

1. TRAINING:

A. To be eligible for assignment to represent youth in youth court, counsel shall demonstrate proficiency or receive training in representing youth in youth court, including supervised on-the-job training if appropriate in the duties, skills, and ethics of representing youth in youth court.

B. Counsel shall be knowledgeable in the following areas:

- a. Titles 41 (Montana Youth Court Act), 45 (Crimes) & 46 (Criminal Procedure), Montana Code Annotated;
- b. Child and adolescent development;
- c. The services and treatment options for youth both locally and statewide;
- d. The role and makeup of youth placement committees and kids' management authorities (KMAs);
- e. Local and state experts who are available to consult on youth court cases as well as perform evaluations of youth;
- f. Pre-dispositional and dispositional services and programs available through the court and probation;
- g. Brain development and the effect of neglect and trauma on brain development;
- h. The juvenile justice and child welfare systems;
- i. Substance abuse issues;
- j. Mental health issues;
- k. Special education laws, rights and remedies;
- l. School related issues including school disciplinary procedures and zero tolerance policies.