

Practice Standards

December, 2012

Section XVI, Representation of a Minor Voluntarily Committed to a Mental Health Facility

XVI. REPRESENTATION OF A MINOR WHO IS VOLUNTARILY COMMITTED TO A MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY UNDER §53-21-112, MCA

GOALS:

- A. To actively and effectively represent minor children in proceedings where they or, if under the age of 16, their parents or guardian, have consented to mental health services treatment under §53-21-112, MCA, in an effective and professional manner throughout all phases of the representation.**
- B. To abide by specific mandatory standards of representation for public defenders as attorney for the minor.**
- C. To serve the stated interests of the minor, to be independent from the court and other participants in the litigation, including the minor's parents or guardian, and to be unprejudiced and uncompromised in representing the minor.**
- D. To exercise independent and professional judgment in carrying out the duties assigned by the court and to participate fully in the case on behalf of the minor.**