

CWS1041W LEGAL PRINCIPLES in CHILD WELFARE
Supervisor Training Follow-up Guide

<p>Course Description</p>	<p>This course provides a fundamental overview of the court structure in Virginia to enhance worker’s understanding of the goals, outcomes, requirements, and burdens of proof at each stage of the civil and criminal court process. Particular attention is given to the value of a well documented case for court, how case records are used in court, and the legal requirements for case documentation. Topics include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Courtroom terms, rules of evidence, demeanor and examination tactics. 2. The roles and responsibilities of key players in the court process. 3. The types and purposes of frequently used court petitions/orders. 4. The meaning of “reasonable efforts”. 5. Skills to enable effective testimony during direct and cross examination.
<p>Purpose</p>	<p>Please choose three of the following field practice activities to facilitate discussions with your worker on how training supports their ability to effectively use the court system to protect children.</p>
<p>Field Practice Activities to Support the Application of Learning</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Identify the common types of court petitions/orders used and which are most relevant to the worker’s caseload. Identify who is responsible (worker, agency attorney or both) for completing the forms. https://fusion.dss.virginia.gov/dfs/DFS-Home/Resources/Forms-Repository/Court-Forms Completion date: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Have the worker review a CPS case to determine how well it might hold up to an appeal using the Building an Appeal Proof Case handout and discuss strengths and weakness of the case with supervisor Completion date: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Have the worker meet with the agency attorney to discuss the purpose of direct examination and the guidelines for effective direct testimony and then draft a brief summary of key points to share with unit peers. Completion date: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Have the worker present a case petition and/or affidavit in a unit meeting to evaluate that it contains legally-sufficient information. Discuss strategies for withstanding cross-examination. Completion date: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Consider how worker envisions testifying in court and identify typical problems or challenges that might be encountered when implementing court orders. Completion date: _____</p>

