



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CENTER
ON ENGAGING YOUTH IN
FINDING PERMANENCY

Online Free Training for Court and Legal Professionals

Children and youth are experts about their own lives. They need to be engaged as partners, especially in decisions related to legal, cultural and relational permanency. This requires a paradigm shift for child welfare courts and legal professionals in terms of training, policy and practice.

The QIC-EY Child and Youth Engagement Online Training for Legal Professionals will help to build a culture of equity and inclusion, ensuring that children and youth of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds, abilities, sexual orientations and gender identities can partner safely and effectively in shared decision-making.





What?

Funded by the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the Quality Improvement Center on Engaging Youth in Finding Permanency (QIC-EY) is charged with advancing child welfare programs and practice to ensure that they are engaging and empowering children and youth authentically, especially in relation to permanency decisions. This five-year project is dedicated to making systemic changes in how children and youth are engaged authentically, as reflected in intentional policy, practice and culture shifts.

Courts and legal professionals are critical partners in this effort. The American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) and With Lived Experience have developed a training on child and youth engagement for court and legal professionals. This asynchronous training, which is free, has been co-designed by professionals with lived experience in the child welfare system.



Who?

This training is intended for legal professionals working within child welfare court systems, such as:

- » Attorneys for child welfare agencies
- » Attorneys and guardians *ad litem* for children and youth
- » Attorneys for parents
- » Judicial officers including judges, magistrates and hearing officers
- » Volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)
- » Other court staff such as Court Improvement Program (CIP) personnel, clerks, court officers, etc.

When and where?

This five-module, asynchronous, virtual training can be completed at a time and place convenient for the learner. Each module will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Each also has a pretest and a posttest. The modules can be completed all in one session or spread out over time. QIC-EY team members can work with court personnel to determine the best structure and frequency for implementation of the training.



How?

Learners will be guided through the five modules to build their skills for engaging with children and youth. Each module includes interactive elements, videos, and supplemental written and narrated content.

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MODULE 1

Child and Youth Engagement for Legal Professionals focuses on research findings and national best practices. It invites learners to reflect on their own beliefs and professional roles in this work.

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MODULE 2

Trauma, Grief and Loss is dedicated to building empathy in the learner by increasing understanding of the impact of trauma, grief and loss on children and youth. It includes lessons about trauma-informed practices that can help to promote engagement.

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MODULE 3

Adolescent Brain Development and Effective Interpersonal Communication elevates the learner's knowledge of child development and adolescent brain science. It explains techniques to improve communication styles. These techniques are based on developmental stages and the use of age-appropriate language in legal settings.

MODULE 4

Maximizing Child and Youth Participation in Court provides concrete tips to improve child and youth engagement before, during and after court hearings.

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MODULE 5

Walk the Walk: Engaging Children and Youth in Court To Improve Outcomes and Experiences summarizes and synthesizes the key learning objectives of the training and guides the learner in applying these skills to a hypothetical case scenario.

Learners will have ongoing access to a resource bank of articles, tip sheets and other tools to continue deepening their skill set.

Does this training qualify for Continuing Legal Education credits and certificates of completion?

Whether you can earn CLE credits for this training depends on the CLE requirements in your state. Please check with your CLE governing board to find out if CLE credits are available to you for this training. A certificate of completion can be generated through the learning management system after completion of the posttest.

Is implementation support available?

The QIC-EY team can provide structured support to courts implementing this training. QIC-EY team members will work with interested parties to identify key champions and to build their interest as well as to develop and to implement a training engagement plan.

To learn how your court system can implement this critical training, contact:

QIC-EY Team

info@qic-ey.org



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