

Child Welfare Law Orientation Welcome

Comm. Anton Jamieson
Dane County Circuit Court
Madison

Hon. Edward Vlack
St. Croix County Circuit Court
Hudson

Child Welfare:

- Our Children,
- Our Families,
- Our Courts



**As a result of
attending this conference
you will learn
(or re-learn)
how to:**

**Manage cases and conduct
basic child welfare court hearings,
including TPR proceedings**



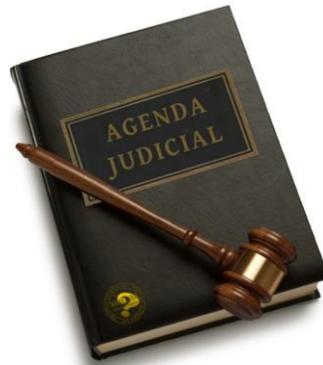
Identify and apply state and federal child welfare law



Comply with time limits and move your cases along



Make essential findings required for effective decisions



Make decisions that are tailored to the needs of the child and the family



Conference Overview

- Agenda
- Folder Materials
- Housekeeping Items
- Introductions



Agenda:

**WE
COVER
IT
ALL**



Folder materials:

**ALL
KINDS
OF
INFO**



Housekeeping items:

**WHAT,
WHEN,
WHERE,
HOW**



Introductions: Our dream team

- **Comm. Kevin Costello**
- **Hon. Christopher Foley**
- **Comm. Anton Jamieson**
- **Hon. Wendy Klicko**
- **Hon. Jason Rossell**
- **Hon. Edward Vlack**



Ice Breaker(s):



We surveyed judges and commissioners and asked:

What do you wish you had known about Chapter 48 child welfare CHIPS cases during your first few years as a judge that you did not know, but that you now know?

RESPONSES

THE LAW

We must always, always, always look to the statute – positively everything is in the chapter 48 statute.

I continually look (and find) more in the chapter 48 statute regarding every possible situation.

Read the Children’s Code jury instructions. They are invaluable.

THE LAW

I wish I had known that the rules of evidence do not apply to most Ch. 48 hearings.

See Wis. Stat. Sec. 48.299(4).

THE LAW

When I first started, I wish I would have simply used the online court form orders for TPC, Plea, Disposition, and Perm Plan review hearings. These orders have everything for findings and conclusions during the hearing without using 12-page outlines on Courtnet. Plus, the juvenile clerk is able to follow along and complete the forms as I am making the orders.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION

I wish I had known the importance of lawyers representing parents in these action!

HS actually gave the seed money for paying lawyers. Now we apply for grants to cover costs.

CCIP can give you stats on how 70 % of kids are less likely to go into juvenile court when return home.

HEARINGS IN GENERAL

Recognizing that so much of what you get is filtered!
Learning to listen to the people involved. Be particularly attentive to those who are from outside the children's court system

Finally social workers like lawyers come in different types and with different talents .

HEARINGS IN GENERAL

Just from a practical point of view and running a successful hearing – such that it is efficient / organized / and ensuring all are heard. With all the parties that might appear in these cases making sure you hear each party whether they appear in person / phone / zoom.

Mapping out the courtroom as far as who is going to speak and when (and doing it the same each time).

HEARINGS IN GENERAL

Telling parents who might be appearing in court for the first time or at least for the first time in a CHIPs matter, what the process is and who is going to talk & when, so the parents understand what to expect.

There is a lot going on in these hearings and having an organized hearing can help take some of the stress out of the hearing.

HEARINGS IN GENERAL

I wish I had known how important it is for the Judge to connect with the parents

HEARINGS IN GENERAL

How little the focus is actually on black letter law in these types of cases.

It is on drugs and violence and mental health and all kinds of adult issues that kids have to deal with. Law school didn't teach me that. There is no statute or case law that says here's what you can do to help this family and this child succeed. These cases are hard but the effort has been and always will be needed by everybody in the system.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

I would have appreciated a mock TPR /CHIPS default/and stipulated findings hearing as an example.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

I wish I would have known about all the services available through CCIP!

I never did child welfare cases as a lawyer, but was assigned to them right after elected. I read/watched the videos and made mistakes until I began to understand the system.

THE COURTS AND HUMAN SERVICES

I wish I would have known the importance of communication between the courts and HS!

For 40 years, our county pounded heads with HS, but now, even though we may not agree on an outcome, we respect each other.

(Consider Judicial Engagement Team)

THE COURTS AND HUMAN SERVICES

I wish I would have known what resources are available at our county Human Services Department.

I wish I would have known what resources are available outside of our county Human Services Department.

DISPOSITIONAL ORDERS

Since most Chips cases in my county are due to drugs, to limit the requirements the parents have to do to get the children back. The process should not be to make perfect parents, but deal with the issues at hand. Limited requirements to make it easy for everybody to know what needs to be done

POST DISPOSITION

Quarterly reviews. Meet by Zoom in between perm plan reviews so case is in court every 3 months checking on progress making adjustment so parents meet conditions of return.

I wish I had known importance of the Court holding bi-annual review, not HS! Parents take it serious.

POST DISPOSITION

I wish I had known my county's average percentage of kids going to permanency within 2 years of removal!

The State average is 70 %.

CLOSING OPENING REMARKS!

THANK YOU!

