

**NACC Ohio Custom Training**  
**February 2025**

This training series is designed for Ohio attorneys who represent children, parents, and the Agency. The presenters will use practice tips, hypothetical case studies, and polls, grounded in Ohio law, to share knowledge, skills, and best practices aimed at promoting high quality representation in Ohio child welfare cases.

**Presented by:**

*Shannon Felder, JD, CWLS, Training Director, NACC*

*Josephine Vanderhorst, JD, CWLS, Staff Attorney, NACC*

**Session 1: High-Quality Legal Representation in Child Welfare Cases****Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 3:00-4:30 PM ET*****Learning Objectives:***

- Understand the value and practical obligations of attorneys representing children, parents, and agencies in child welfare cases.
- Develop effective legal strategies for achieving the best interests of children and families.
- Learn how to navigate agency policies and procedures to support case outcomes.

***Agenda:***

1. **Practical Foundations of Legal Representation**
  - a. Overview of roles and responsibilities of attorneys representing children, parents, and agencies in child welfare cases.
  - b. Understanding the Impact of High-Quality Legal Representation in child welfare cases.
2. **Navigating Agency Policies and Procedures**
  - a. Understanding Ohio Administrative Rules, including policies around investigations.
  - b. How to effectively use administrative law, safety plans, and agency regulations in legal practice.
3. **Strategies for High-Quality Advocacy in Juvenile Court**
  - a. Best practices for working with social workers and case managers.
  - b. Reasonable Efforts Advocacy

**Session 2: Culturally Humble and Trauma-Informed Legal Representation in Child Welfare Cases,  
Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 3:00-4:30 PM ET**

***Learning Objectives:***

- Understand the importance of cultural humility and trauma-informed practices in child welfare cases.
- Learn to address racial and ethnic disparities in child welfare cases and advocate for fair treatment.
- Develop skills for representing families impacted by trauma.

***Agenda:***

1. **Cultural Humility and its Role in Child Welfare Cases**
  - a. Defining cultural humility in child welfare practice.
  - b. Understanding how racial and ethnic disparities impact case outcomes.
  - c. Best practices for culturally competent legal representation and advocating for diverse families.
2. **Trauma-Informed Legal Representation**
  - a. The impact of trauma on children and families involved in child welfare cases.
  - b. How to identify signs of trauma in clients and understand its effect on legal proceedings.
  - c. Tools for building trust with clients from diverse backgrounds and complex family situations.
  - d. Practical strategies for providing trauma-informed legal advocacy and support.
3. **Addressing Disparities and Building Trust in Legal Representation**
  - a. Recognizing and understanding disproportionality in child welfare cases.
  - b. Practical strategies to incorporate understanding of disproportionality into case advocacy.

**Session 3: Complex Legal Issues in Child Welfare Cases**

**Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 3:00-4:30 PM ET**

***Learning Objectives:***

- Develop a clear understanding of complex legal issues such as ICPC, UCCJEA, and immigration law.
- Learn to navigate representation in cases where parents are facing related criminal charges.
- Advocate for appropriate placements, including kinship care and placements for children with therapeutic needs and behavioral issues.

***Agenda:***

1. **ICPC and UCCJEA: Interstate and Jurisdictional Challenges**

- a. Overview of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) and the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA).
- b. Key considerations when handling cases with interstate or international jurisdiction.
- c. Best practices for ensuring smooth placement transitions and jurisdictional clarity.

2. **Criminal Charges and Child Welfare Cases: Navigating the Intersection**

- a. How pending criminal charges affect child welfare cases.
- b. Strategies for defending parents with criminal charges related to abuse or neglect.

3. **Placement Advocacy and Legal Considerations for Children with Special Needs**

- a. Advocating for children with behavioral health needs, including therapeutic placements and QRTP hearings.
- b. Legal and policy considerations in kinship care placements and maximizing family-based solutions.
- c. Practical tips for advocating for appropriate services and placements for children with specialized needs.

Registration can be completed [here](#). For questions, please contact  
Jennifer.Reed@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov or  
Tequila.Washington@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.