CUSTOM STATE-BASED
NACC Child Welfare Course

The National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) would love to work with your jurisdiction to design and deliver a custom state-based child welfare training! These state-specific offerings build upon the seven-week online Red Book Training Course, which covers the flagship legal treatise Child Welfare Law and Practice: Representing Children, Parents, and State Agencies in Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency Cases (3rd Edition), otherwise known as “the Red Book.” The goal of a custom, state-specific course is to support high quality legal representation for youth, parents, and agencies in the child welfare system.

Jurisdictions can expect the following when engaging NACC to design and deliver a custom state-specific Red Book Training Course:

- An “incubator session” conducted with local practitioners and judges to identify the most pressing needs and topics to address in a state-specific training;
- A comprehensive, thoroughly researched curriculum that covers relevant statutes, rules, case law, and practice nuances of your jurisdiction;
- Partnership and collaboration with local practitioners and Court Improvement Programs to ensure that all trainings and materials are relevant to and meet the jurisdiction’s needs; and
- A dynamic, interactive series of webinars that increases attendees’ knowledge of local child welfare law and practice and teaches concrete advocacy tips.

In developing the curriculum of a custom state-specific course, NACC attorneys use the Red Book Training Course syllabus as a guide. Specific topics to be prioritized and covered are determined in collaboration with the jurisdiction and local practitioners. Examples of possible course content areas may include (but are not limited to):

- The lifecycle of a dependency case, highlighting relevant statutes and court rules;
- Recent appellate law;
- Local rules of evidence and trial practice issues that commonly arise in child welfare cases;
- Focus on particular populations and the state law impacting those populations (i.e. older youth);
- Bias, cultural humility, and racial disparities;
- Client-centered practice and authentic youth engagement.

Custom courses can be designed for attendees of varied experience levels (beginner to advanced) and to be applicable to attorneys representing youth, parents, and agencies, as well as judges, in dependency court. The length and amount of webinars offered is determined in consultation with the jurisdiction.

For more information regarding custom courses, please contact:
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