Meaningful Youth Engagement in a Virtual Legal World

Thursday, August 6, 2020
3:00-4:30 PM ET

Quality legal representation for youth necessarily involves active solicitation, incorporation, and meaningful engagement of youth voice into decision-making. Youth engagement is particularly important in court proceedings. COVID-19 has transformed many attorney-client interactions into virtual events, including court hearings. Virtual attorney-client interactions create new challenges and complexities for attorneys’ abilities to meaningfully engage their clients, protect confidentiality, and amplify their voices.

This webinar will outline concrete tips and best practices for engaging youth in virtual interactions and hearings. Attendees will learn why being led by youth voice in legal decisions, particularly those made in the courtroom, is important and promotes stronger outcomes for youth and families. The presenters will also discuss key considerations for practitioners in preparing for and engaging in virtual meetings and hearings with youth, including privacy and confidentiality, how to navigate and help clients navigate different technology platforms, client counseling, and courtroom best practices.

Robert Latham, JD, Children and Youth Clinic, University of Miami
Robert Latham is a Clinical Instructor & Practitioner-in-Residence at the Children and Youth Law Clinic. He teaches students who handle cases involving abused, abandoned and neglected children in a variety of forums, including dependency and family courts, administrative hearings, and federal and appellate courts.

Shobha Lakshmi Mahadev, JD, Children and Family Justice Center, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
Shobha L. Mahadev is a Clinical Associate Professor of Law at the Children and Family Justice Center where she teaches and supervises students working on cases and projects that involve youth in conflict with the law.

Dani Townsend, Former National Foster Care Youth & Alumni Policy Council Member