

Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia Programs

Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia Judge[®] Training

Judges exercising juvenile court jurisdiction are required by law to obtain twelve hours (12) of continuing judicial education annually beginning in the year after their first year on the bench. The Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (ICJE) and the Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia are designated by law to provide this training. ICJE provides training twice a year through seminars. Each semi-annual seminar provides the twelve (12) hours of training. Judges can fulfill the training requirement by attending either one of the seminars. Upon becoming a Judge, you must notify the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education in order to receive upcoming seminar information and materials. ICJE emails registration packets for each seminar directly to the judges about two months prior to the seminar date. In order to attend, ICJE requires judges to register for the seminar. Council staff member Eric John oversees the administration of the judge[®] training. Any questions you may have on training requirements should be directed to Eric John.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia Judge[®] Specialized Training Needs

The Council can provide information and training assistance for a wide range of topics. Both the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges provide training scholarships. Any questions you may have should be directed to Eric John.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges Legal Support

The Council of Juvenile Court Judges can assist juvenile court judges with legal research, information on legislation, sample orders, etc. Any legal questions you may have should be directed to the staff attorney, Anne Kirkhope.

Justice Case Activity Tracking System (JCATS)

The Council, in partnership with Canyon Solutions, Inc. (canyonsolutions.com) has developed a case management system for juvenile courts, Justice Case Activity Tracking System (JCATS). The software is available, free of charge, to any juvenile court that wishes to use it. The system is used by 42 juvenile courts across the state, accounting for 90% of the data collected. The Council works with the user courts and Canyon Solutions, to continuously enhance and update the system. If you have any questions, you may contact Council staff member Benita Brown, who oversees the administration of this system.

Judicial Citizen Review Panel Program

The Judicial Citizen Review Panel Program is a volunteer program organized to review child custody cases. Legally, the Court is required to review the case of each child in custody of the state not less than every six months. Courts can use Judicial Citizen Review Panels to fulfill this requirement. The Council trains the volunteers, provides ongoing technical assistance to the citizen panels, and monitors compliance with applicable law. Currently there are 62 courts who choose to use Judicial Citizen Review Panels. Council staff member Eric John oversees the administration of this program. Any questions you may have should be directed to Eric John.

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Children in Need of Services (CHINS)

On January 1, 2014, the State of Georgia adopted an updated juvenile code which includes a new case type called Child in Need of Services (CHINS) found in Article 5 of the code beginning at O.C.G.A. 15-11-380. The legislative purpose is:

1. To acknowledge that certain behaviors or conditions occurring within a family or school environment indicate that a child is experiencing serious difficulties and is in need of services and corrective action in order to protect such child from the irreversibility of certain choices and to protect the integrity of such child's family;
2. To make family members aware of their contributions to their family's problems and to encourage family members to accept the responsibility to participate in any program of care ordered by the court;
3. To provide a child with a program of treatment, care, guidance, counseling, structure, supervision, and rehabilitation that he or she needs to assist him or her in becoming a responsible and productive member of society; and
4. To ensure the cooperation and coordination of all agencies having responsibility to supply services to any member of a family referred to the court.

The purpose of CHINS is to deter neglect, child abuse, and delinquency by creating a comprehensive system of support that focuses not only on intervention, but also on prevention. CHINS provide support and services to at-risk youth and their families to help divert them from the path of child welfare and/or court intervention to a healthier and more productive path in life.

Questions regarding the CHINS programs may be directed to Council staff Kim Tolbert at ktolbert@cjcfjga.org