



Resource Toolkit for Child Advocates

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Case Scenario

- You were assigned to a case involving three children: Michael (14), Eva (6) and Devon (3)
- Devon tested positive for cocaine at birth
- Eva is developmentally delayed
- Father is unknown
- Mother is incarcerated on 7 year sentence
- Children are placed separately in foster care
- Case is now at dispositional phase



Independent Investigation & Advocacy

- Education
- Sibling visits
- Relative resources
- Placement stability
- Physical, mental, emotional needs
- Purpose of upcoming court hearings and roles of players
- Others?




A Place to Start: Child Welfare Policy Groups

- Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic: www.childwelfare.net
 - "What's New"
 - "Popular Links"
 - "Michelle's Handy Links"
 - Legislative and Advocacy Activities
- Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children: www.GAJusticeForChildren.org
 - Webcasts
 - Upcoming Conferences/Trainings/Seminars
 - Publications
 - Agency Alliance Listserv
 - Bulletin Board
- VOICES for Georgia's Children: www.georgiavoices.org




Key Legal Resources

- Georgia Association of Counsel for Children (GACC): www.gaccchildlaw.org
 - Child Welfare Attorney Trial Manual
 - Appellate Case Law Update
 - Practice Standards
- Council of Juvenile Court Judges (CJCJ): www.georgiacourts.org/councils/cjcj/index.htm
 - Uniform Rules of the Juvenile Court
 - Juvenile Court Benchbook
 - Uniform Forms & Model Orders



Key Agency Resources

- DFCS Policy: www.odis.dhr.state.ga.us
 - Info on subsidies
- DFCS Forms: <http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site/DHR-DFCS/menuitem.5d32235bb09bde9a50c8798dd03036a0/?vgnextoid=3e692b48d9a4ff00VgnVCM100000bf01010aRCRD>
 - Or just Google "DFCS forms"



More General Resources

- GAHSC Referral Central:
www.referralcentral.info
- Office of the Child Advocate:
www.oca.ga.gov
 - Training and conferences
 - Reports
 - Complaint form



Specific Issues: Education

- Michael wants to finish his freshman year in his current high school
- McKinney-Vento Act and Fostering Connections to Success & Increasing Adoptions Act
 - Educational Stability Provisions
 - Enrollment without delay
 - Maintain school of origin
 - Transportation
- Georgia School Locator:
<http://childwelfare.net/utilities/gaschools/>
- Georgia Department of Education:
<http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/>
 - DOE McKinney-Vento Director
 - Local McKinney-Vento Liaisons



Education

- National Working Group on Foster Care and Education:
<http://www.casey.org/friendsAndFamilies/Partners/NWGFCE>
 - ABA Center on Children and the Law
 - American Public Human Services Association
 - Casey Family Programs
 - Child Welfare League of America
 - Children's Defense Fund
 - Education Law Center (Pennsylvania)
 - Juvenile Law Center
 - National CASA
 - National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues
 - National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
 - National Foster Care Coalition
 - National Foster Parent Association



Specific Issues: Absent Parents

- Federal Parent Locator Service:
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/n ewhire/> (accessible by DFCS)
- Putative Father Registry:
<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/vitalre cords/fatherreg.asp>
- "Accurint" database - accessible by DFCS
- Georgia Corrections Prisoners:
<http://www.dcor.state.ga.us/GDC/Offen derQuery/jsp/OffQryForm.jsp>
- To find any person:
www.switchboard.com
- "Family Finding" and similar services
 - Newly available Family Connections grants



Specific Issues: Mental & Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

- Marcus Institute:
www.marcus.org
- AVLF/Marcus Institute Professional Lecture Series webcasts:
www.gaprofessionalservices.org
- Atlanta Alliance on Developmental Disabilities:
www.aadd.org
- Georgia Crisis & Access Line:
<http://www.mygcal.com/> / 800-715-GCAL (4225)



Specific Issues: Legislation

- Georgia General Assembly:
<http://www.legis.state.ga.us/>
- Barton Clinic listserv - sign up @
www.childwelfare.net



Special Issues: Adoption

- Georgia Center for Resources and Support: www.gaadoptionresources.org
- DFCS adoption unit – access from DHS website: www.dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov > “services” → “adoption”
- Licensed adoption agencies and child care facilities: www.ors.dhr.state.ga.us



Special Issues: Immigration

- Catholic Charities Atlanta, Inc.: www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org > “Services” → “immigrant juvenile program,” “refugee resettlement,” “immigration legal services”
- U.S. Dep’t of State: www.state.gov
- U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions: www.usembassy.state.gov
- Mexican Consulate in Atlanta: www.consulmexatlanta.org / ph: 404-266-2233
- Google “consulates, atlanta” ...



Special Issues: Medicaid

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services:
 - Medicaid: www.cms.hhs.gov/home/medicaid.asp
- Georgia Dep’t of Community Health (DCH): www.dch.georgia.gov
 - Medicaid
 - “Katie Beckett” waivers
 - Children’s Intervention Services
 - PeachCare for Kids



Specific Issues

- Youth Advocacy:
 - Georgia EmpowerMENT Group
 - Multi-Agency Alliance for Children (MAAC):
www.maac4kids.org / Ph: 404-880-9323
- GLTBQ Youth
 - Youth Pride:
www.youthpride.org / Ph: 404-521-9711



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THANKS!