

## Advanced Forensic Social Work Certificate Program: Forensic Court Systems, Reporting and Testifying

### Learning Objectives:

#### Session 1. Overview of Court Systems and Social Work Roles Interfacing With Court Systems

- 1) Identify the various forms of court-related activities in which forensic social workers participate
- 2) Explain the importance of the interface of social workers in the court systems especially those involving minor children
- 3) Describe at least 2 limitations to court-related work by social work professionals, and how social work expectations can be managed as regards court-related interaction

#### Session 2. The Call to Court

- 1) Differentiate core agency policies of hos services versus human services
- 2) Describe professional responsibility with regard to court subpoenas
- 3) Explain the ethical relationship of social workers to minor clients and their families and how this relationship is impacted by court-ordered testimony

#### Session 3. Preparation, Preparation, Preparation

- 1) Identify the various components of research and information gathering in the forensic social work profession
- 3) List the different types of mitigation reports filed in court and their purpose

#### Session 4. Forensic Documentation

- 1) Describe core considerations when drafting a mitigation report to courts
- 2) Identify key components of a forensic report in response to a juvenile court
- 3) Identify strategies for report writing in compliance with NASW Code of Ethics

#### Session 5. Testifying

- 1) Identify the various types of subpoenas from court systems
- 2) Describe criteria involved in serving as an expert witness
- 3) Identify strategies for testifying in court and overcoming challenges by defense attorneys

#### Session 6. Mock Court

- 1) Identify at least 2 key considerations when delivering court testimony
- 2) Describe criteria involved in serving as an expert witness
- 3) Identify strategies for testifying in court and overcoming challenges by defense attorneys

## References/Citations

- Vaughan-Eden, V. (2022). National Organization of Forensic Social Work in the 21st Century: A Historical Retrospective of the Last 10 Years. *Journal of Forensic Social Work*, 6(1), 4-10. <https://doi.org/10.15763/issn.1936-9298.2022.6.1.4-10>
- Geffner, R., White, J., Hamberger, L. K., Rosenbaum, A., Vaughan-Eden, V., & Vieth, V. (Eds.). (2022). *Handbook of interpersonal violence and abuse across the lifespan: A project of the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan (NPEIV) (Vols. 1-6)*. Springer Nature. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-62122-7>
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- Vaughan-Eden, V. (2022). Testifying in child abuse cases. In L. Rapp-McCall, K. Corcoran, and B. Roberts (Eds.). *Social Workers' Desk Reference* (4th ed., pp. 1252-1258). Oxford University Press.