

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

LEGL 2762 Juvenile Law

Credit Hours: 2

Lecture Hours: 2

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisites: LEGL 1043 Introduction to Law and LEGL 2252 Family Law

Prerequisites or corequisites: LEGL 2723 Criminal Law, LEGL 2133 Torts or consent of department head.

Effective Catalog: 2018-2019

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Examines the different rights and legal protections afforded to juveniles and contrasts them with their adult counterparts. Teaches paralegal students about the juvenile court system and the different types of issues they will face in dealing with the juvenile system and representation of juvenile clients.

B. Additional Information

Juvenile law is a natural follow-up course to the 8 week family law course as well as a good follow up or concurrent course to criminal law. Juveniles have their own court system separate from adults and are subject to different legal rules and have different legal rights from adults. Attorneys and their paralegals have to deal with these differences on a regular basis when juveniles commit crimes, get involved with gangs, get involved with drugs, are truant from school, have problems during divorces, are in need of special government programs and services, etc. Paralegals with education in this subject will be more marketable in the work force.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and articulate key differences between adult and juvenile: free speech rights; criminal justice systems; detention facilities and procedures; general civil rights; and treatment on matters involving torts, contracts, business dealings and core legal concepts and disciplines.

2. Draft documents for use in juvenile proceedings.
3. Understand juvenile probation and diversion strategies and goals.
4. Assist attorneys in dealing with "family unification plans" inherent in FINS petitions.
5. Attend DHS hearings with and on occasion, without attorneys as juvenile advocates.
6. Understand the role of guardian or attorney ad litem for juveniles.
7. Prepare for court ordered mediation sessions involving juveniles and DHS.
8. Articulate juvenile educational and school rights and obligations..

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will demonstrate an understanding of juvenile law and how it is different from adult law issues. Students will draft appropriate documents for use in juvenile proceedings.

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills - Students will identify the legal issues raised in a case or fact pattern as well as identify the rules that are relied upon to resolve the issues. Students will apply those rules to the issue or fact pattern and reach a logical resolution premised on and grounded in those rules.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues inherent in the practice of juvenile law, the juvenile court system and the different types of issues they will face in dealing with the juvenile system and representation of juvenile clients.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The legal status of minors, statutory and constitutional issues.
- B. Rights of children and the relationship of their rights to those of parents and other family members and the state's interest in protecting the health and safety of a child.
- C. Obscenity, pornography, privacy rights, "under age" issues, contract and tort liability issues, emancipation of minors, money issues.
- D. Rights of juveniles in the context of schools – first amendment rights, school discipline, religious freedom, interaction with police and social agencies through the school, FERPA issues, disabled students and Act 504 issues.
- E. The juvenile court system – pre- and post-adjudication issues, diversion cases, the decision to try as an adult, adjudications, delinquency, dispositions, family involvement, right to counsel, forms and pleadings involved, the mechanics of a trial in juvenile court, the right to trial by jury.

- F. Juvenile correctional facilities, "juvenile hall" issues relating to the incarceration of juveniles, the impact of juvenile convictions on later adult life and possible criminal charges, the rights of juveniles in custody, continuing education issues.