

National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC)

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Mission: At the National Association of Counsel for Children, our mission is to improve the lives of children and families by ensuring that these proceedings produce justice. As a multidisciplinary membership organization, we work to strengthen legal advocacy for children and families by:

- **Strengthening the Delivery of Legal Services:** The NACC works to ensure that children and families are provided well resourced, high-quality legal advocates when their rights are at stake.
- **Enhancing the Quality of Legal Services Affecting Children:** The NACC implements best practices by providing certification, training, education, and technical assistance to promote specialized, high-quality legal advocacy.
- **Improving Courts and Agencies:** The NACC promotes systemic improvement in our child and family serving agencies, institutions, and court systems.
- **Advancing the Rights and Interests of Children and Families:** The NACC promotes a safe and nurturing childhood through legal and policy advocacy for the rights and interests of children and families.

Geographic area covered: National

Services Provided:

NACC Training

- Child law attorneys and caseworkers must navigate various federal, state, and local laws. These laws differ in both theory and practice from one jurisdiction to the next, making child welfare one of the most challenging specialties in our legal system. In order to ensure that attorneys and caseworkers have the tools they need to operate in such complex legal systems, the National Association of Counsel for Children provides a number of training programs. Our curricula are designed by nationally recognized experts in child welfare and juvenile justice, and our trainers use a variety of teaching methods. We also design custom curriculum to meet the needs of your jurisdiction.

NACC Certification

- The National Association of Counsel for Children is the only organization approved by the American Bar Association to certify attorneys as Child Welfare Law Specialists. Currently available in 39 states, the NACC Certification Program was created and sponsored by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau, and is available to attorneys serving in the role of Child's Attorney, Parent's Attorney, or Agency Attorney. We have also been endorsed by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and the Conference of Chief Justices/Conference of State Court Administrators (CCJ/COSCA).

NACC Policy

- Our NACC Policy page offers a number of valuable resources to help you impact the lives of children. Our NACC Policy Agenda examines the role that child law attorneys play, and provides specific recommendations for child welfare, juvenile justice, child custody, and criminal proceedings. The NACC Policy Advocacy Guide provides a powerful tool for both first-time and experienced child welfare advocates. Our Standards of Practice documents provide useful guidelines for child law attorneys. You'll also find information on requesting NACC participation as amicus curiae (friend of the court) or through assistance with other advocacy efforts.

