

The Basics of Juvenile Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Cases
Trial Testimony from the perspective of the caseworker and Attorney

A training offered by the Fourth Judicial Circuit Juvenile Justice Council and
Judge Ericka Sanders
Juvenile Court Judge in Marion and Clinton Counties

Agenda:

- I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks
- II. Demonstration of a direct examination
- III. Discussion of practices used by the attorney and witnesses and relevant evidentiary rules
 - A. Judge Middendorff (ret.), Melissa Duran (State), Kendra Shuler (witness)
 - B. Best practices for testifying and direct examination
 - C. Overview of evidentiary rules unique to child welfare cases
 - D. Refreshing recollection and past recollection recorded (the use of service plans and reports during testimony)
- III. Demonstration of a cross examination
 - A. Judge Middendorff (ret.), Stephanie Corum (Public Defender), Marsha Holzhauser (GAL), Kendra Shuler (witness)
 - B. Best practices for cross examination from the witness' and attorney's perspectives
- IV. Objections
 - A. How a witness handles objections during testimony (Kendra Shuler)
 - B. Leading questions – definition and evidentiary rules
 - C. Hearsay – overview and rules unique to child welfare cases
- VI. Trial preparation
 - A. From the perspective of the States Attorney and the Guardian ad Litem
 - B. From the perspective of the witness