LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO CIVITAS CHILDLAW CENTER and
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

CHILD WELFARE LAW RESOURCE GUIDE

2011-2012
Introduction

The Resource Guide to Child Welfare Law is part of a series published by Loyola University Chicago School of Law’s Civitas ChildLaw Center in cooperation with the Office of Career Services. Each Guide addresses a separate area of child and family law and provides practical information to Loyola students and graduates to aid them in their academic and career decision-making. Other Resource Guides in the series include: Education Law, Family Law, Juvenile Justice Law, Child and Adolescent Health Law, and International Children’s Rights. For more information on the Civitas ChildLaw Center and its programs, please see www.luc.edu/childlaw. For additional curriculum planning guidance, please consult with the Office of the Academic Dean. Additional career-planning support is available from the Office of Career Services and/or from individual faculty members listed in each guide.

Overview: What is Child Welfare Law?

Broadly speaking, all areas of children’s law can be considered “child welfare law” because all are ultimately aimed at protecting children and promoting their well-being. For purposes of this Resource Guide series, however, the term “child welfare” has a narrower definition. It refers to that body of law, policy and practice focused on supporting the interests of children who are abused, neglected, dependent, or otherwise made vulnerable at the hands of family members or others. In some jurisdictions this is referred to as child protection law.

Knowledge Areas

The practice of child welfare law is diverse. It typically requires a knowledge of civil, criminal, and administrative law, as well as familiarity with a wide variety of interdisciplinary subjects, including child development, family dynamics, mental health and substance abuse, trauma, cultural competency, and pediatrics.

Practice Areas

Many child welfare attorneys are litigators in the public or private sphere. They may serve as prosecutors, defenders, or as attorneys/guardians *ad litem* for children in juvenile court child protection court proceedings, criminal prosecutions, and administrative review actions. Some attorneys specialize in federal civil rights cases and/or class actions on behalf of child clients. Others represent federal or state public agencies charged with protecting children or private agencies, organizations, health care facilities, or other institutions that provide direct service to children and families.

Child welfare attorneys may also work in the public and private policy arena. Many national, state and local nonprofit organizations and foundations focus on children’s
advocacy, the development and implementation of effective child protection prevention and intervention strategies, and other child-well-being initiatives such as the adequate provision of child care. A significant number of law school clinical programs focus on some aspect of children’s law, including child abuse and neglect.

Degrees/Programs Offered

In addition to the traditional J.D. program (both full- and part-time), Loyola University Chicago School of Law offers other degrees and programs for students interested in child welfare law.

**Child and Family Law Certificate Program**

The School of Law offers a Certificate in Child and Family Law for J.D. students. To complete the certificate, students must take one required course (Child, Parent and State) and three additional child/family law electives, achieving a grade of B or better.

**J.D./M.S.W.**

The School of Law and Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work offer a 4-year full-time J.D./M.S.W. degree. The dual degree may also be pursued part-time. The M.S.W. program focuses on clinical social work. Field placements are available in family and child-serving agencies that also provide legal services, and in some law settings.

**LL.M. in Child and Family Law**

Established in 1995, the LL.M. degree in Child and Family Law allows law school graduates to develop specialized knowledge and skills in the area of child and family law. The program is intentionally small and tailored to meet individual student interests, such as child welfare law, domestic relations law, juvenile justice law, education law, or international children’s rights.

**M.J. in Children’s Law and Policy (online)**

Loyola now offers the nation’s only online master’s level degree, through a law school, for professionals working on behalf of children and families. The Master of Jurisprudence is a two-year part-time program designed to provide professionals who work with children with a firm understanding of law and policy as they affect children and families. Students also have the option to enroll in a program earning both an M.J. and M.S.W. For additional information, please see [www.childlawmj.org](http://www.childlawmj.org).

Faculty/Staff
Curriculum

The School of Law offers one of the nation’s most comprehensive sets of curricular offerings in the area of child welfare law. Students interested in obtaining an even broader interdisciplinary focus may also take a limited number of graduate-level courses in other Loyola Schools and Departments. Designed to prepare students to address a wide range of legal issues affecting children and families, School of Law course offerings include:

- Adoption Law Seminar
- Advanced Issues in Domestic Relations Law
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
Experiential Learning Opportunities

The School of Law offers many opportunities for students interested in gaining practical experience in the field of child welfare law while in law school.

Civitas ChildLaw Clinic

The Loyola Civitas ChildLaw Clinic is a functioning law office where Loyola J.D. and LL.M. students take on real cases working under the close supervision of faculty. The Clinic's clients are almost exclusively children, typically involved in child protection (abuse and neglect), child custody and visitation, school discipline and juvenile justice cases. Students in the Clinic gain skills in such areas as client interviewing and counseling, investigation and case planning, negotiation, written and oral advocacy, and courtroom skills. While the subject matter of the clinic’s cases focuses on children’s issues, students can expect to develop skills that are transferrable to any practice setting.

ChildLaw Policy Institute

The Policy Institute introduces students to the development of children’s policy and the legislative process by involving students in work on a range of initiatives. In addition, through the ChildLaw Legislation Clinic, students have an opportunity to work on “live” and simulated policy and legislative initiatives under the guidance of faculty. Student involvement includes
legal and policy research, problem solving, coalition building, and oral and written communication, including drafting legislation and supporting documents.

**Externships**

The School of Law’s externship program is designed to provide law students with practical experience under the supervision of a lawyer or judge and a supervising attorney from the law school. It is an opportunity to improve skills, incorporate the values of the profession and develop effective work habits, while making contacts with those in the field. For a complete list of these opportunities, please contact Josie Gough, Director of Experiential Learning.

**Internship/Career Resources**

Below is a listing of government agencies, law firms, and non-profit organizations that specialize in or practice some aspect of child welfare law. This list is not exhaustive, but serves as a starting point for students who are searching for internships or positions. A more detailed state-by-state listing of such programs is available in the ABA Directory of Pro Bono ChildLaw Programs, available at: apps.americanbar.org/litigation/committees/publications_directory.pdf

**Government Agencies**

**Circuit Court of Cook County**  
**Child Protection Division**  
**Office of the Presiding Judge**  
2240 West Ogden Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60612  
Tel. 312-433-4757

**Cook County Public Defender**  
69 W. Washington, Suite 1600  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Tel. 312-603-0600  
www.cookcountygov.com

**Cook County State’s Attorney**  
69 W. Washington, Suite 3200  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Tel. 312-603-1880  
www.statesattorney.org

**Illinois Attorney General**  
**Child Welfare Bureau/High Tech Crimes Task Force**  
100 W. Randolph
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Legal Department
100 W. Randolph St.  6-200
Chicago, IL 60601
Tel. 312.814-6800
www.state.il.us.dcfs

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Office of the Inspector General
2240 West Ogden Ave.
Chicago, IL 60612
Tel. 312-433.3000
www.state.il.us.dcfs

Illinois Department of Labor
Child Labor
160 N. LaSalle  13th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60601
312-793-2804
www.state.il.us/agency/idol

Office of the Cook County Public Guardian
Child Protection (Juvenile) Division
2245 W. Ogden Avenue, 4th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60612
Tel. 312-433-4300
www.publicguardian.org/juvenile

US Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Children’s Bureau
1250 Maryland SW  8th Fl.
Washington, DC 20024
Tel. 800-394-3366
www.childwelfare.gov

US Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Region 5
233 N. Michigan Ave.  Ste. 400
Law Firms

Ann Nicholson Haralambie
3661 N. Campbell  PMB # 130
Tucson, AZ  85719
Tel. 520-327-6287
www.haralambie.com

Child & Family Law Center
Of the North Shore, LTD
1950 Sheridan Rd., Suite 106
Highland Park, IL 60035
Tel. 847-926-0101
www.lawforchild.com
Contact:  Micki Moran (adjunct)

Children’s Law Group
4732 N. Talman
Chicago, IL 60625
Tel. 773-878-4951
www.childrenslawgroup.com

Family Defense Center
70 E. Lake  Ste. 1100
Chicago, IL  60601
Tel. 312-251-9800
www.familydefensecenter.net
Contact:  Melissa Staas (alumna)

Non-Profit Organizations

ABA Center on Children and the Law
740 15th St.  NW
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: 202-662-1740
www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law.html

Advocates for Youth
2000 M St.  NW,  Ste. 750
Washington, DC 20036
Tel. 202-419-3420
www.advocatesforyouth.org

ACLU of Illinois
180 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 2300
Chicago, IL 60601
Tel. 312-201-9740
www.aclu-il.org

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
180 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 2110
Chicago, IL 60601
Tel. 312-427-8419

Alliance for Children’s Rights
3333 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 550
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Tel. 213-368-6010
www.kids.alliance.org

American Academy of Pediatrics
141 Northwest Point Blvd.
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Tel. 847-434-4000
www.aap.org

Bazelon Center for Mental Health
1101 15th St. NW Ste. 1212
Washington, DC 20005
Tel. 202-467-5730
www.bazelon.org

CASA of Cook County
1100 S. Hamilton Suite 8-W
Chicago, IL 60612
Tel. 312-433-4928
www.casacookcounty.org

Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center
1240 S. Damen Ave.
Chicago, IL 60608
Tel. 312-492-3700
www.chicagocac.org
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
70 E. Lake St. Ste. 700
Chicago, IL 60601
Tel. 312-641-4140
www.chicagohomeless.org

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation
100 N. LaSalle St., Ste. 900
Chicago, IL 60602
Tel. 312-332-1624
www.cvls.org

Child Abuse Prevention Center
4700 Rosehill Road
North Highlands, CA 95600
Tel. 916-244-1900
www.thecapcenter.org

Child Care Association of Illinois
413 W. Monroe
Springfield, IL 62704
www.cca-il.site.ym.com

Child Care Law Center
445 Church St.
San Francisco, CA 94114
Tel. 415-558-8005
www.childcarelaw.org

Child Welfare League of America
1726 M. St. NW Suite 500
Washington, DC 20036
Tel. 202-688-4200
www.cwla.org

Children at Risk
2900 Weslayan #400
Houston, TX 77027
Tel. 713-869-7740
www.childrenatrisk.org
Contact: RJ Hazeltine-Shedd (alumnus)

Children’s Defense Fund
25 E Street., NW
Washington, DC 20001
Tel. 800-CDF-1200
www.childrensdefense.org

Children’s Home + Aid
125 S. Wacker Dr. 14th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60606
Tel. 312-424-0200
www.childrenshomeandaid.org

Children’s Law Center
616 H Street NW Ste. 300
Washington, DC 20002
Tel. 202-467-4900
www.childrensLawcenter.org

Children’s Law Center of Connecticut
30 Arbor St. N. Building 4th Fl.
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel. 860-232-9996
www.clcct.org

Children’s Law Center, Inc.
1002 Russell St.
Convington, KY 41011
Tel. 859-431-3313
www.childrenlawky.org

Children’s Legal Services, Inc.
4 Cypress St. Ste. 3
Brookline, MA 02445
Tel. 617-264-7330
www.childlaw.org

Children’s Rights, Inc.
330 Seventh Ave. 4th Fl.
New York, NY 10001
888.283-2210
www.childrensrights.org

Committee for Public Counsel Services
Children and Family Division
44 Bromfield St.
Boston, MA  02108
Tel. 617-482-6212
www.publiccounsel.net

DeKalb County Child Advocacy Center
Gregory Adams Juvenile Law Center
4309 Memorial Dr.
Decatur, GA  30032
Tel. 404-297-4174
www.co.dekalb.ga.us.org
Contact:  Trenny Stovall (colleague)

Georgia CASA
1776 Peachtree Rd.  NW STE. 219
Atlanta, GA 30309
Tel. 404-660-3736
www.gacasa.org

Health and Disability Advocates
205 W. Monroe  Ste. 200
Chicago, IL 60606
Tel. 312-223-9600
www.hadvocates.org

Illinois Action for Children
4753 N. Broadway, Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60640
312-823-1100
www.actforchildren.org

Jane Addams Foundation
1603 Orrington
Evanston, IL 60201
Tel. 773-643-4888
www.janeaddamsfdn.org

Justice for Children
1875 Connecticut Ave.  NW Ste 710
Washington, DC 20009
Tel. 202-462-4688
www.jfcadvocacy.org

Justice for Children
2600 Southwest Freeway,  Ste. 806
Houston, TX 77098
Tel. 713-225-4357
www.jfcadvocacy.org

Juvenile Law Center
1315 Walnut St.  4th Fl.
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Tel. 215-625-0551
www.jlc.org

Kids in Need of Defense
1331 G. St.  NW  Ste. 900
Washington, DC  20005
Tel. 202-824-8680
www.supportkind.org

Lawyers for Children
1110 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10013
Tel. 800-244-2540
www.lawyersforchildren.org

Legal Aid Society
Juvenile Rights Division
199 Water St.
New York, NY 10038
Tel. 212-577-3346
www.legal-aid.org

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
111 W. Jackson Blvd.  Ste. 300
Chicago, IL 60604
Tel. 312-341-1070
www.lafchicago.org
Contacts: Richard Cozzola, Denericka Brooks

McCormick Foundation
205 N. Michigan  Suite 4300
Chicago, IL  60601
Tel. 312-445-5000
www.mccormickfoundation.org

Monroe County Prosecutors Office
125 E. Second St.
Monroe, MI  48162
Tel. 734-240-7600
www.co.monroe.mi.us

National Association of Counsel for Children
13123 E. 16th Ave. Suite B390
Aurora, CO 80045
Tel. 888-828-NACC
www.advocate@naccchildlaw.org

National Association to Protect Children
46 Haywood St. Ste 315
Ashville, NC 28801
Tel. 828-350-9350
www.protect.org

National Center for Children in Poverty
215 W. 125th St. 3rd Fl.
New York, NY 10027
Tel. 646-284-9600
www.nccp.org

National Center for Kids Overcoming Crisis
5300 KidsPeace Drive
Orefield, PA 18069
Tel. 1-800-25-PEACE
www.kidspeace.org

National Center on the Prosecution of Child Abuse
44 Canal Center Plaza Ste. 510
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel. 703-549-9222
www.ndaa.org

National Center for Youth Law
405 14th St. 15th Fl.
Oakland, CA 94612
Tel. 510-835-8098
www.youthlaw.org

National Child Advocacy Center
210 Pratt Ave.
Huntsville, Ala 35801
Tel. 256-533-5437
www.nationalcac.org

National Children’s Alliance
3611 S.W. Hood St. Ste. 201
Portland, OR 97201
Tel. 503-222-4044
www.cicwa.org

Northwestern U. School of Law
Bluhm Legal Clinic
Children and Family Justice Center
357 E. Chicago Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel: 312-503-8576

Ounce of Prevention Fund
33 W. Monroe Ste. 2400
Chicago, IL 60603
Tel. 312-922-3863
www.ounceofprevention.org

Prevent Child Abuse America
228 S. Wabash 10th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60604
Tel. 312-663-3520
www.preventchildabuse.org

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
528 S. 5th St. Ste. 211
Springfield, IL 62701
Tel. 217-522-1129
www.preventchildabuseillinois.org

Rocky Mountain Children’s Law Center
1325 S. Colorado Blvd. Ste. 701
Denver, CO 80222
Tel. 303-692-1165
www.rockymountainchildrenslawcenter.org
Contact: Timothy Eirich (alumnus)

Shriver Center
50 E. Washington Ste. 500
Chicago, IL 60602
Tel. 312-263-3830
civicrem@povertylaw.org

Voices for America’s Children
1522 K St. NW Ste. 600
Washington, DC 20005
Tel. 202-289-0777
www.childadvocacy.org

Voices for Illinois Children
208 S. LaSalle Suite 1940
Chicago, IL 60604
Tel. 312-456-0600
www.voices4kids.org

Youth Law Center
417 Montgomery St. Ste. 900
San Francisco, CA 94104
Tel. 415-543-3379
www.ylc.org

**Blogs, News, Resources**

**Blogs/Newsletters:**

- Best Interests: E-Magazine for Child Advocates
  www.childadvocacy.org

- ChildLaw Blog
  www.childlaw.us

- Michigan Children’s Law Blog
  www.michiganchildrenslawblog.com

- Spotlight on Youth
  www.blogtalkradio.com

**Journals: (partial list)**

- Child Abuse and Neglect
  The International Journal
  www.elsevier.com
Children’s Legal Rights Journal
www.luc.edu/childlaw

Family & Children’s Law eJournal
www.ssrn.com

Family Law Quarterly
www.americanbar.org

Illinois Child Welfare
www.Illinoischildwelfare.org

International Journal of Children’s Rights
www.brill.nl/international-journal-childrens-rights

Journal of Law and Family Studies
www.epubs.utah.edu

Journal of Juvenile Law
www.law.laverne.edu

Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy
www.Jjlp.ucdavis@gmail.com

www.michbar.org

Whittier Journal of Child and Family Advocacy
www.law.whittier.edu

Other Resources:

Annie E. Casey Foundation
701 St. Paul St.
Baltimore, MD 21202
Tel. 410-547-6600
www.adcf.org

ABA Section on Litigation
Children’s Law Committee
Tel. 312-988-5662
www.americanbar.org/litigation/committee/childrights/home/html
Kempe Foundation for the Prevention & Treatment of Child Abuse & Neglect
Children’s Hospital Colorado
13123 E. 16th B 390
Aurora, CO 80045
Tel. 303-864-5300
www.kempe.org

Future of Children
267 Wallace Hall
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544
Tel. 609-258-5894
www.futureofchildren.org

International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
13123 E. 16th Ave., B390
Aurora, CO 80045
Tel. 303-864-5222
www.ispakan.org

National Association of Counsel for Children
13123 E. 16th Avenue, 8390
Aurora, CO 80045
Tel. 1-888-828-NACC
www.naccchildlaw.org

National Center on Homelessness and Poverty
1411 K. St. NW Ste, 1400
Washington, DC 20005
Tel. 202-638-2535
www.nlchp.org

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
P.O. Box 8970
Reno, NV 89507
Tel. 775-784-6012
www.ncjfcj.org

National Center for Child Poverty
Mailman School of Public Health
Columbia University
722 W. 168th St.
New York, NY 10032
Tel. 212-305-3927
www.nccp.org

National CASA Association
100 W. Harrison
North Tower Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98119
www.casaforchildren.org

Pew Charitable Trusts
901 E St. NW
Washinton, DC 20004
Tel. 202-552-2000
www.pewtrusts.org