

€ TRAINING

Child Protection





Child Protection

Introduction:

This training program equips participants with the knowledge, skills, and ethical framework necessary to safeguard the welfare of children within legal proceedings and broader societal contexts. Through collaboration, advocacy, and informed decision-making, participants are empowered to play active roles in promoting and ensuring the rights and protection of children within the judicial system and their communities.

Program Objectives:

At the end of this program, participants will be able to:

- Acquire a comprehensive understanding of child protection laws, policies, and procedures to support judicial officers effectively.
- Develop skills to assess and address the unique needs and vulnerabilities of children involved in legal proceedings.
- Enhance decision-making abilities to make informed and ethical choices regarding child welfare and protection.
- Cultivate collaboration and coordination among judicial officers, social workers, attorneys, and other stakeholders in child protection cases.
- Be empowered to advocate for children's rights within the judicial system and their communities.

Targeted Audience:

- Judicial officers judges, magistrates, commissioners involved in child protection cases.
- Court administrators and legal professionals working in child welfare and protection.
- Social workers specializing in child welfare.
- Attorneys representing children or involved in child protection proceedings.
- Professionals from relevant government agencies responsible for child welfare.
- Advocates and activists working to protect children's rights.

Program Outline:

Unit 1:

Legal Foundations of Child Protection:

- Overview of international conventions and national laws pertaining to child rights and protection.
- Understanding the role of judicial officers in safeguarding children's rights.
- Legal principles and standards guiding child protection proceedings.
- Case law analysis and precedent-setting decisions in child protection cases.
- Ethical considerations in adjudicating child welfare matters.

Unit 2:

Child Development and Trauma-Informed Practice:

- Understanding child development stages and milestones.
- Recognizing the impact of trauma on children's behavior and well-being.
- Trauma-informed approaches to interviewing and interacting with children.
- Best practices for assessing and responding to the needs of children in legal proceedings.

Unit 3:

Assessing Risk and Safety:

- Conducting comprehensive risk assessments in child protection cases.
- Identifying signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Collaborating with multidisciplinary teams to gather and evaluate evidence.
- Making informed decisions regarding child placement and intervention.
- Developing risk management plans for children at risk of harm.

Unit 4:

Courtroom Procedures and Case Management:

- Procedural considerations in child protection hearings and trials.
- Ensuring procedural fairness and due process rights for children and families.
- Case management strategies for expediting child protection cases while ensuring thoroughness and accuracy.

- Role of judicial officers in facilitating alternative dispute resolution and family-centered approaches.
- Mock courtroom exercises: Practicing courtroom proceedings in child protection cases.

Unit 5:

Supporting Children Beyond the Courtroom:

- Understanding the continuum of care for children involved in the legal system.
- Accessing community resources and services to support children and families.
- Promoting permanency and stability for children through reunification, adoption, or alternative care arrangements.
- Advocating for systemic reforms and policy changes to enhance child protection outcomes.
- Developing personal action plans: Implementing lessons learned in participants' judicial roles.