

Advanced Certification in Juvenile Justice

The following courses are administered by the North Carolina Judicial College at the UNC School of Government. All district court judges presiding over juvenile proceedings are welcome to attend. In courses where space is limited, priority will be given to district court judges who (1) preside over juvenile proceedings and (2) are seeking a certification as a juvenile court judge or one of the advanced juvenile certifications or are currently certified as a juvenile court judge and seeking the mandatory continuing judicial education hours addressing juvenile law.

The following two courses for district court judges are required for the Advanced Certification in Child Welfare and the Advanced Juvenile Certification in Juvenile Justice.

- Mental Health Issues in Juvenile Court: This multiday course focuses on children with mental health needs who are the subject of district court proceedings, including delinquency; abuse, neglect, dependency; judicial review of a minor's voluntary admission; or involuntary commitment. This course will (1) examine the laws governing these proceedings that enable a court to enter orders addressing a child's mental health needs, (2) explain the procedure for determining a juvenile's capacity to proceed in a delinquency action, (3) identify common mental health issues children who are the subject of these various types of court proceedings experience, and (4) discuss the North Carolina behavioral health delivery system and services that are available within that system.
- Educational Issues for Systems-Involved Youth: This multiday course explores the connection between juvenile court proceedings and the education system, with an emphasis on the educational rights of children. Topics for discussion include, but are not limited to, school enrollment and educational stability for children in foster care; special education; school discipline and school-justice partnerships; the role of law enforcement in schools; the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); and information sharing between juvenile court and schools, including access to school records.

Four additional courses are required for the Advanced Certification in Juvenile Justice.

- Juvenile Transfer to Superior Court: This one-day course will focus on the procedure that governs the transfer of delinquency cases to Superior Court for criminal processing, from the filing of the petition through the appeal of a transfer order. Various pathways for transfer, and the situations in which they can be used, will be detailed. Participants will have the opportunity for practical application of the material covered and for discussion of their questions with a panel of experienced judges.
- What Life is Like in Delinquency Out-of-Home Settings: This one-day course will provide judges the opportunity to visit out-of-home settings used in delinquency matters. Visits will include a Youth Development Center and a juvenile detention center. If practicable, some classes may include a non-secure congregate care facility. Participants will tour facilities and have the opportunity to talk with staff.

- Two additional juvenile law electives designated as eligible for advanced certification in juvenile justice. Additional courses and topics to be determined.
 - Interstate Compact for Juveniles: This half-day, online class will address the law and rules that govern interstate issues related to juvenile justice cases. Topics will include returning out-of-state runaways to their home state, returning out-of-state juveniles who are accused of acts of delinquency to the state in which they are charged, and transferring supervision of a juvenile who is on probation to another state for supervision.
 - Juvenile Capacity to Proceed: This one-day class will provide detailed instruction on the legal standard and procedures for juvenile determinations of capacity to proceed. Session Law 2023-114 established a new legal standard that governs whether a juvenile has capacity to proceed in a delinquency matter and created new procedures regarding capacity determination and remediation following a finding that the juvenile is not capable to proceed. This course will focus on the legal and clinical details of this law, including what the juvenile capacity standard means, how to understand juvenile capacity evaluations, when a juvenile is eligible for remediation services, what remediation services entail, and how a case may proceed following remediation.
 - Dispositions in Juvenile Justice: This one-day course will explore how to understand the information provided to the court to make dispositional decisions and how to use the dispositional alternatives in a delinquency case to effectively disrupt patterns of repeat offending among youth. Participants will consider how the information in the predisposition report and the YASI should inform dispositional planning; learn about the risk, needs and responsivity principle; review the legal requirement for ordering a delinquency disposition; and learn about evidence-based interventions. The class will also include a hands-on activity to practice structuring an effective delinquency disposition.
 - The Intersection of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice: This two-day course will focus on the unique issues that arise when juveniles are involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Topics include the prevalence of dual system involvement, legal issues that arise when a juvenile who is in foster care becomes involved in the juvenile justice system, legal issues that arise when a juvenile is placed in foster care as a result of a delinquency case, and best practices for managing dual system matters.
 - Neuroeducation Curriculum for Juvenile Justice Professionals: This half-day workshop offers in-depth exploration of the connection between the brain development needs of justice-involved youth and dispositional alternatives available in delinquency cases. Prior completion of an online learning module on the impact of substance use on the adolescent brain is required prior to class attendance. Participants have the opportunity to learn directly from neuroscientists and to understand how certain interventions support improvements in youth impulsivity, emotional regulation, emotion processing, executive functioning, and motivation.