



2026 Civil Defense Webinar

June 26, 2026, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

*Co-sponsored by the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government
& the North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services*

The 2026 Civil Defense Webinar will cover what attorneys who represent respondents in juvenile abuse, neglect, dependency, and termination of parental rights (TPR) proceedings need to know about records belonging to the department of social services (DSS). School of Government faculty Timothy Heinle will review both the law and practice tips related to confidentiality of and access to DSS records, discovery, the admissibility of records (including hearsay and hearsay exceptions), and judicial notice of previously admitted DSS records at TPR. This webinar will also include Annick Lenoir-Peek, Parent Defender with Indigent Defense Services, providing an overview of specific social worker duties found in the North Carolina Child Welfare Manual. Defenders will learn more about those duties, including where to find them and tips for how to use the Manual to strengthen their advocacy on behalf of parents. The webinar will be presented live and offers participants an opportunity to ask questions through the Q & A feature.

CLE Credit: 1.5 Hours of General CLE Credit

SPEAKERS

Timothy Heinle, Albert and Gladys Coates Term Professor, Teaching Associate Professor

Timothy Heinle is an expert on North Carolina civil matters, including evidence; abuse, neglect, and dependency; incompetency and guardianship; and child support contempt proceedings. As a faculty member in the School's Public Defense Education program, his primary focus is on providing education and resources to civil defense attorneys, including parent attorneys and Chapter 35A guardian ad litem attorneys. In addition to his work with civil defenders, Heinle teaches other attorneys and judicial officials on matters of civil law.

Heinle was awarded with an Albert and Gladys Coates Term Professorship for 2025-2027. In 2022, he received the School's Performance Excellence Award for "collaborative, dedicated, and innovative efforts that advance the mission of the School of Government," and the Margaret Taylor Writing Award for "outstanding writing that displays [a] clear and direct style," for [*The First Seven Days as a Parent Defender*](#).

Heinle joined the School in 2020. Previously, he spent a decade as a civil litigator at the trial and appellate levels in the areas he now focuses on at the School. Heinle earned a J.D. from New England Law in Boston, MA.

Annick Lenoir-Peek, Parent Defender, NC Office of the Parent Defender

Annick Lenoir-Peek, Parent Defender, received her JD from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in 1994. She began representing parents in A/N/D and TPR cases in 1998 in South Carolina prior to moving to North Carolina. She has practiced in this area of law exclusively since 2002, including two years as an agency attorney. Her focus has been representing parents at the appellate level since 2002. She was certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist by the National Association of Counsel for Children in 2015 and by the North Carolina State Bar in 2022. Ms. Lenoir-Peek joined the office in June 2008. In May 2025 she was appointed by the IDS Commission as the Parent Defender.

CLE HOURS: 1.5