

Title: A Courtroom Advocate's Guide to the Family First Prevention Services Act

Session Description

This session will demystify the landmark federal Family First Act, beginning with a discussion of its history, strengths, and shortcomings. It will offer innovative advocacy opportunities to translate the law into lived experience for children, parents, and caregivers in Colorado's child welfare system. Participants will gain increased confidence and urgency to leverage the language and the spirit of law in their daily case practice.

Resources

<https://www.childtrends.org/publications/child-welfare-financing-in-colorado-current-landscape-and-recommendations>

<https://www.familyfirstact.org/sites/default/files/Family%20First-legal-roles.pdf>

<https://www.childrensdefense.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/family-first-detailed-summary.pdf>

For ongoing updates/resources from the FFPSA Implementation team in Colorado:

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs-boards-committees-collaboration/family-first-prevention-services-act-implementation-team>

Attorneys can also access the FFPSA Resource on the Litigation Toolkit:

<http://www.coloradochildrep.org/attorney-center/litigation-toolkit/>

Bios

Allison Green is the Legal Director at the National Association of for Children, where she manages the organization's policy advocacy and provides technical assistance to child welfare practitioners across the country. Most recently, she served as a Foster America Fellow at Missouri's Children's Division, where her work focused on strengthening the agency's collaboration with court partners. Previously, Allison was Senior Supervising Attorney at the Children's Law Center of Washington, D.C. In this role, she provided ongoing staff supervision, developed trial strategy, and contributed to training and program planning for a GAL program that represented 500 foster youth each year. Allison has presented locally and nationally on a variety of child welfare topics. She is a certified Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS) and has volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. She is currently licensed to practice in Washington, D.C.

Ashley Chase is a staff attorney and the legislative liaison for the Office of the Child's Representative. Ashley began her career in child welfare law while attending the University of Colorado School of Law with her participation in the Juvenile Law Clinic where she was awarded the CU Law pro bono service award (2006/07) and the Juvenile Law Clinic Award (2007). After completing an externship with the Honorable J. Robert Lowenbach in the 19th Judicial District, Ashley began working in Weld County in the areas of family law and as a Guardian ad Litem. During her 10 years in Weld County, Ashley participated in all aspects of litigation and appeals. She worked in the problem-solving court (Family Treatment Court) and was a member of the 19th Judicial District Best Practices Team. In 2010 she was awarded the Jim Covino Advocate of the Year award from the Office of the Child's Representative and

in 2017 she was a member of the Best Practices Team of the Year. Ashley completed her CWLS certification in 2012 and has presented and taught across the state in the field of Child Welfare Law. Ashley also serves at the Family First Prevention Services Act Implementation Team Co-Chair in Colorado.