



JOIN THE FIGHT!

GROW YOUR LEGAL PRACTICE AND HELP CHILDREN AND PARENTS IN NEED! APPLY FOR OUR CHILD REQUIRING ASSISTANCE TRAINING!

CPCS's Children and Family Law Division (CAFL) is seeking zealous, effective attorneys who want to protect the rights of parents and children in Child Requiring Assistance (CRA) cases in the Massachusetts Juvenile Court.

Every day, children and families in Massachusetts struggle with unmet needs, including lack of appropriate education, health care, mental health services, stable housing, and quality after-school programs. Many parents and schools turn to the Juvenile Court for help by filing a CRA petition. Yet the Court itself does not provide services; instead, all it can do is remove custody from a parent and place the child in foster care. A zealous CRA attorney can help children and parents navigate the complex court and service delivery systems and advocate for children to remain in their homes and communities. Unfortunately, there are not enough certified attorneys who have the time and training to zealously represent all these families in need. Please apply to join the CRA panel today.

Interested attorneys should apply through the [CPCS Panel Certification Application Portal](#) and select CAFL CRA (CRA cases only).

Applications are due on December 29, 2025, but will be accepted on a rolling basis until the training is filled.



IMPORTANT DETAILS FOR INTERESTED ATTORNEYS

CERTIFICATION TRAINING: The training sessions consist of live Zoom sessions, as well as self-directed learning. Successful completion enables certification to represent children and parents in child requiring assistance (CRA) cases. The specific training dates and times are:

Orientation January 28, 3-4 p.m.

February 4, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

February 9, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

February 12, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

ASSIGNMENT: Attorneys will be assigned to cases where children are accused of being truant, running away, or misbehaving in school or at home. All children are entitled to court appointed counsel. Parents are entitled to counsel if the court is considering granting custody to the Department of Children and Families. Some CRA cases resolve quickly; others can last a year or longer.

COMPENSATION: Private attorneys will be paid **\$75/hour** for CRA matters. In some counties, there may also be additional stipends for participating in the local CRA duty day program.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS: Attorneys must adhere to CAFL's performance standards and meet other requirements outlined in the CPCS *Assigned Counsel Manual*. Those standards and requirements can be found [here](#).

SUPPORT: New panel members will be assigned a mentor who provides support, introduces them to court personnel, helps them learn local practices, attends initial court hearings, and offers assistance.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions about CRA cases, the certification process, or the upcoming training, please contact CAFLattorney@publiccounsel.net.

INTERESTED? APPLY [HERE](#) BY DECEMBER 29, 2025!