



JOIN THE FIGHT!

GROW YOUR LEGAL PRACTICE AND HELP CHILDREN AND PARENTS IN NEED! APPLY FOR OUR CAFL TRIAL PANEL CERTIFICATION TRAINING!

The Children and Family Law Division (CAFL) of the Committee for Public Counsel Services is seeking qualified attorneys to represent children and indigent parents in care and protection/termination of parental rights and child requiring assistance (CRA) cases in the Juvenile Court. We are particularly interested in applicants practicing in Barnstable, Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties.

CAFL offers attorneys difficult yet rewarding work with clients in urgent need of zealous representation. Prior to becoming certified, accepted attorneys must successfully complete CPCS' Trial Panel Certification Training, a comprehensive training in this specialized area of law. Certified attorneys will be assigned to represent children and parents in state intervention cases, which often start with an ex parte petition filed by the Department of Children and Families. Immediate responsibilities include preparing for potential emergency custody hearings within 72 hours of an ex parte order. These cases can last 15 months or longer. If you are up for this challenge, please apply for our upcoming training!

Attorneys accepted into this training will receive a "Certification Payment" of \$6,216 upon the following: 1) successful completion of the CAFL Trial Panel Certification Training; 2) receiving appointments on 12 care and protection cases within 18 months of certification; and 3) submission of 500 hours of billing on care and protection cases within 18 months of certification.

Admission to the CAFL Trial Panel Certification training requires submission of a completed application, resume and writing sample through the CPCS Application Portal. Applicants will also participate in a virtual interview with members of the CAFL Trial Panel Support Unit.

**Preference will be given to applications received by
July 27, 2026.**

Interested attorneys can apply through the
CPCS Application Portal found [HERE](#).

IMPORTANT DETAILS FOR INTERESTED ATTORNEYS

CERTIFICATION TRAINING: Attendance at all days of the training and successful completion of the mock hearing is required to become certified to take CAFL cases. The training will take place on the following dates:

Thursday, September 10, 2026, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Orientation — Zoom
Monday, September 14, 2026, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — In Person
Thursday, September 17, 2026, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. — Zoom
Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — In Person
Thursday, September 24, 2026, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. — Zoom
Monday, September 28, 2026, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.— In Person
Thursday, October 1, 2026, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. — Zoom
Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — In Person
Wednesday, October 14, 2026, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — In Person
October 27, 28 & 29, 2026, 8:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – In Person Mock Hearings (participants are assigned to one mock hearing day)

The training is a mix of in-person sessions, live zoom sessions, and substantial self-directed learning. The training concludes with a full day in-person mock temporary custody hearing. All applicants are expected to hold the three mock hearing dates until you have been assigned a mock hearing date.

ASSIGNMENT: Attorneys will be assigned to cases, which often start with an ex parte petition filed by the Department of Children and Families. Immediate responsibilities include preparing for potential emergency custody hearings within 72 hours of an ex parte order. These cases can last 15 months or longer.

COMPENSATION: Beginning August 1, 2026, the Private attorney rate will be paid at **\$105/hour** for Care and Protection/Termination of Parental Rights cases and **\$85/hour** for CRA matters.

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 becoming a member of the CAFL Trial Panel, the certification process, or the upcoming training, please contact CAFLattorney@publiccounsel.net.

**INTERESTED? Apply Through the
CPCS Application Portal [HERE](#) by July 27, 2026!**