

ABA Standards of Practice: Representing Parents in Abuse and Neglect Cases



Why Standards of Practice?

Overall Goal: When parent representation done well can make real difference for clients and families, sometimes the difference between reunification and termination

Why Standards of Practice?

Goals of ABA:

- Promote quality representation and uniform practice
- Help attorneys prioritize duties and manage practice in ways that benefit each parent on attorney's caseload
- Clarify role of parent attorney in abuse and neglect cases

Standards of Practice – MN?

- Do we as parents' attorneys in MN want to develop Standards of Practice?
- Let's start NOW!

Relationship With Client

- Barriers to developing / maintaining relationship with client?
- What would be important to include in MN Standards of Practice?
- ABA Standard 1.1 (meet and communicate with client regularly well before court proceedings)

Court Preparation

- Barriers to effective court preparation?
- What would be important to include in MN Standard of Practice?
- ABA Standard 26 (engage in case planning and advocate for appropriate services using a multidisciplinary approach to representation when available)

Development of MN Standards

- Who will help?
- Participation from attorneys in all areas of state
- See me after this presentation if you are interested in working on MN Practice Standards