

# Resource Toolkit for Child Advocates

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2008 CASA Conference  
March 28, 2008



## Case Scenario

- You were assigned to a case involving three children: Michael (14), Eva (6) and Devon (3)
- Devon tested positive for cocaine at birth
- Eva is developmentally delayed
- Father is unknown
- Mother is incarcerated on 7 year sentence
- Children are placed separately in foster care
- Case is now at dispositional phase



## Independent Investigation & Advocacy

- Education
- Sibling visits
- Relative resources
- Placement stability
- Physical, mental, emotional needs
- Purpose of upcoming court hearings and roles of players
- Others?



## A Place to Start: Child Welfare Policy Groups

- Barton Child Law & Policy Clinic: [www.childwelfare.net](http://www.childwelfare.net)
  - “What’s New”
  - “Popular Links”
    - “Michelle’s Handy Links”
  - Legislative and Advocacy Activities
- Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children: [www.GAJusticeForChildren.org](http://www.GAJusticeForChildren.org)
  - Webcasts
  - Upcoming Conferences/Trainings/Seminars
  - Publications
  - Agency Alliance Listserv
  - Bulletin Board



## Key Legal Resources

- Georgia Association of Counsel for Children (GACC):  
[www.gaccchildlaw.org](http://www.gaccchildlaw.org)
  - Child Welfare Attorney Trial Manual
  - Appellate Case Law Update
  - Practice Standards
- Council of Juvenile Court Judges (CJCJ):  
[www.georgiacourts.org/councils/cjcj/index.htm](http://www.georgiacourts.org/councils/cjcj/index.htm)
  - Uniform Rules of the Juvenile Court
  - Juvenile Court Benchbook
  - Uniform Forms & Model Orders



## Key Agency Resources

- DFCS Policy:  
[www.odis.dhr.state.ga.us](http://www.odis.dhr.state.ga.us)
- DFCS Forms:  
<http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site/DHR-DFCS/menuitem.5d32235bb09bde9a50c8798dd03036a0/?vgnextoid=3e692b48d9a4ff00VgnVCM100000bf01010aRCRD>
  - Or just Google “DFCS forms”



## More General Resources

- GAHSC Referral Central:  
[www.referralcentral.info](http://www.referralcentral.info)
- Office of the Child Advocate:  
[www.gachildadvocate.org](http://www.gachildadvocate.org)
  - Training and conferences
  - Audits
  - Legislation
  - Complaint form



## Specific Issues: Education

- Michael wants to finish his freshman year in his current high school
- McKinney-Vento Act
  - Education for Homeless Children and Youth
    - Includes children in foster care
    - Enrollment
    - Transportation
  - Local liaisons
  - DOE Director:
    - Margo DeLaune
    - Ph: (404) 656-4028
    - Em: mdelaune@doe.k12.ga.us
- Georgia School Locator:  
<http://childwelfare.net/utilities/gaschools/>
- Georgia Department of Education:  
<http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/>



## Education

- National Working Group on Foster Care and Education:  
<http://www.casey.org/FriendsAndFamilies/Partners/NWGFCE>
  - ABA Center on Children and the Law
  - American Public Human Services Association
  - Casey Family Programs
  - Child Welfare League of America
  - Children's Defense Fund
  - Education Law Center (Pennsylvania)
  - Juvenile Law Center
  - National CASA
  - National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues
  - National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
  - National Foster Care Coalition
  - National Foster Parent Association



## Specific Issues: Absent Parents

- Federal Parent Locator Service:  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/nwhire/> (accessible by DFCS)
- Putative Father Registry:  
<http://health.state.ga.us/programs/vitalrecords/fatherreg.asp>
- "Accurint" database – accessible by DFCS
- Georgia Corrections Prisoners:  
<http://www.dcor.state.ga.us/GDC/OffenderQuery/jsp/OffQryForm.jsp>
- To find any person:  
[www.switchboard.com](http://www.switchboard.com)
- "Family Finding" services



## Specific Issues: Mental and Behavioral Health

- Marcus Institute:  
[www.marcus.org](http://www.marcus.org)
- AVLF/Marcus Institute Professional Lecture Series webcasts:  
[www.gaprofessionalservices.org](http://www.gaprofessionalservices.org)
- Atlanta Alliance on Developmental Disabilities:  
[www.aadd.org](http://www.aadd.org)
- Georgia Crisis & Access Line:  
<http://www.mygcal.com/> / 800-715-GCAL (4225)



## Specific Issues: Legislation

- Georgia General Assembly:  
<http://www.legis.state.ga.us/>
- Barton Clinic listserv – sign up @  
[www.childwelfare.net](http://www.childwelfare.net)



## Special Issues: Adoption

- Georgia Center for Resources and Support:  
[www.gaadoptionresources.org](http://www.gaadoptionresources.org)
- DFCS adoption unit – access from DHR website:  
[www.dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov](http://www.dfcs.dhr.georgia.gov) > “services”
- Licensed adoption agencies and child care facilities:  
[www.ors.dhr.state.ga.us](http://www.ors.dhr.state.ga.us)



## Special Issues: Immigration

- Catholic Charities Atlanta, Inc.:  
[www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org) > “Immigration & Resettlement Services”
- Tapestri: [www.tapestri.org](http://www.tapestri.org)  
– “Resources”
- U.S. Dep’t of State: [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)
- U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions:  
[www.usembassy.state.gov](http://www.usembassy.state.gov)
- Mexican Consulate in Atlanta:  
[www.consulmexatlanta.org](http://www.consulmexatlanta.org) / ph: 404-266-2233
- Google “consulates, atlanta” ...



## Special Issues: Medicaid

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services:
  - Medicaid:  
[www.cms.hhs.gov/home/medicaid.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/medicaid.asp)
- Georgia Dep't of Community Health (DCH):  
[www.dch.georgia.gov](http://www.dch.georgia.gov)
  - “Medicaid Programs”
  - “Katie Beckett Waiver”
  - “Children's Intervention Services”



## Specific Issues: GLTBQ youth

- Youth Pride:  
[www.youthpride.org](http://www.youthpride.org) / Ph:  
404-521-9711



## Contact me:

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