

County Counsel

(Reviewed 03/16/18)

Role

The role of County Counsel is to provide legal advice and representation to CWS in all dependency matters, and to provide:

- Consultation with CWS staff
 - Screening of petitions and the assessment of evidence to support the need for filing a petition
 - Advice on matters of law and procedure including, but not limited to:
 - ICWA
 - ICPC
 - Paternity
 - Notice
 - Due Diligence
 - Reasonable Services
 - Trial preparation including:
 - Subpoenaing witnesses
 - Developing trial strategies
 - Drafting legal memoranda
 - Preparing SWs to testify
 - Conducting settlement negotiations in cases set for trial
 - Training for new and experienced SWs on:
 - Dependency procedures
 - New case law and legislation
 - Testifying in court
 - Preparing court reports
 - Dependency procedures
 - Direction regarding discovery and disclosure of CWS records (see Discovery - Active Dependency Cases)
 - Case reviews, to identify potential problems and issues (County Counsel follows up with SWs and CWS managers before and after hearings to resolve potential liability or other issues)
 - Writs and appeals arising from dependency matters
 - Setting of all non-Change-of-Placement Special Hearings.
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