

ATTORNEY EVALUATION – FAMILY COURT

MOTIONS/LAW

1. Demonstrates knowledge of the Rules for Family Proceedings.
2. Demonstrates knowledge of Family law.
3. Files appropriate motions.
4. Appropriately prepares for hearings.

COURTROOM SKILL

1. Is familiar with facts of the case.
2. Effectively represents his/her client.
3. Demonstrates ability to effectively cross-examine expert witnesses.
4. Demonstrates ability to effectively cross-examine lay witnesses.
5. Demonstrates ability to conduct effective direct examination of witnesses.
6. Demonstrates knowledge of the Rules of Evidence.
7. Raises appropriate objections.
8. Effectively uses expert witnesses.

EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION IN FAMILY COURT

1. Negotiates best outcome for each client.
2. If representing a child, is sensitive to the developmental and emotional needs of the child.
3. Understands the causes and effects of child abuse.
4. Understands the family dynamics in each case.
5. Demonstrates awareness of dispositional alternatives.

PROFESSIONALISM

1. Demonstrates professional demeanor.
2. Well prepared for courtroom appearances.
3. Maintains reputation for credibility and ethical conduct.
4. Represents the Office of the Public Defender with zeal and dignity.
5. Able to establish and maintain effective working relationships.
6. Cooperates with others in the office and is willing to handle emergencies and help co-workers.
7. Works efficiently to meet deadlines and handle caseload.
8. Delegates work appropriately to staff.

CLIENT RELATIONSHIP

1. Is responsive to client needs and regularly informs clients about his/her case.
2. Demonstrates paramount concern for the legal rights of his/her client.
3. Ensures client understands his/her case, available options, and any offers from the State.
4. Ability to consider and identify interpersonal problems facing clients, such as learning disabilities, substance abuse issues and psychiatric needs, and how those problems may affect cases.