



**Reimbursement
Opportunities
Available for the 2017
Application Filing Fee!**

Individuals who apply for the 2017 examination by October 31, 2016, and are either deemed eligible to sit for the exam or exempt from taking the exam (aka grandfathered) may qualify for a reimbursement of the \$250 filing fee through a grant offered by the Children's Justice Act.

More details coming soon!

**2017 Juvenile Law Certification Applications
Frequently Asked Questions**

Contents

About Juvenile Law Certification4

- What is juvenile law board certification? 4
- Who can apply for juvenile law board certification?..... 4
- How much does it cost to apply for juvenile law board certification? 4
- What will be the title of my certification? 4
- Do I have to take separate exams to be certified in delinquency or dependency? 4
- What if I only practice in delinquency or dependency, not both? 4
- Can I qualify for Juvenile Law Certification if I do not practice in dependency or delinquency court, or if I don't have a trial practice? 4

Important Dates and Deadlines6

- When will the application be available? 6
- What is the application filing deadline? 6
- When and where is the exam? 6
- What is the exam testing schedule? 6
- When will I know if I am approved to sit for the exam?..... 6
- When will I be notified of my exam results? 6
- When will I officially become certified?..... 6

Grandfathering/20 Year Exam Exemption7

- Can I qualify for juvenile law certification without taking the exam? 7
- What does grandfathering do? 7
- Must all “20 years in the practice on a full-time basis” have been in Florida? 7
- Do I have to file an application if I qualify for the exemption? 7
- When will I know if I have been granted the exemption? 7
- Are there any fees associated with the 20-year exemption? 7

Continuing Legal Education Requirements (Juvenile Law Certification CLE)8

- How many juvenile law certification CLE hours are required? 8
- What is an “accreditation period” for a CLE program? 8
- What is the deadline to complete the required number of juvenile law certification CLE credits for the 2017 exam?..... 8
- How do I know if courses and activities I have previously reported qualify for juvenile law certification CLE credit?..... 8
- What do I do if I see a course on my CLE report that does not show as earning credit for juvenile law, but I think it should? 8
- Is there an extension of time if I cannot complete the required number of juvenile law certification CLE credits by October 31, 2016? 8

**2017 Juvenile Law Certification Applications
Frequently Asked Questions**

Before I sign up for a course, how can I tell if it qualifies for juvenile law certification CLE credit? 9

What types of things can I do to earn juvenile law certification CLE credit? 9

Is there a separate ethics/professional responsibility requirement for certification applicants? 9

How can I find CLE courses that qualify for juvenile law certification CLE credit? 9

Examination 10

 What is the exam format? 10

 How is the exam scored? 10

 When/how do I select which subspecialty topic (delinquency or dependency) I want to test on? 10

 Am I required to know both delinquency and dependency? 10

 Is learning a whole separate subspecialty for the exam even possible? 10

 Is the exam administered by laptop or do I draft my answers by hand? 10

Substantial Involvement/Practical Experience 11

 I work full time in the practice of juvenile law, but I no longer litigate directly. Do I still qualify for certification? 11

 Could an evidentiary hearing where evidence is presented and legal argument taken qualify as a fully adjudicated trial? 11

2017 Juvenile Law Certification Applications Frequently Asked Questions

About Juvenile Law Certification

What is juvenile law board certification?

Answer: “Juvenile law” is the area of law that inherently and directly impacts children. It includes, but is not limited to, dependency, delinquency, and termination of parental rights matters. It does not include adoption matters or matters arising in the context of family law proceedings not consolidated with dependency or termination of parental rights matters. [[Rule 6-29.2, RRTFB](#)]

Who can apply for juvenile law board certification?

Answer: A member in good standing of The Florida Bar who is currently engaged in the practice of law, has been substantially involved in the practice of juvenile law during 3 of the last 5 years, and otherwise meets the standards in Rules [6-29.3](#) and [6-3.5](#), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, may apply for board certification in juvenile law.

How much does it cost to apply for juvenile law board certification?

Answer: The filing fee for the 2017 examination is \$250. The exam testing fee is \$150, and to test by laptop there is an additional \$60 fee. Applicants who are exempt from the exam must pay a \$150 certification fee in accordance with [BLSE Policy 2.04\(b\)](#) prior to receiving their certificate. After becoming board certified, a \$150 annual fee is due each February pursuant to [BLSE Policy 2.04\(d\)](#).

What will be the title of my certification?

Answer: Successful applicants will earn the title of Board Certified in Juvenile Law. There is no distinction in the title for an emphasis in delinquency or dependency.

Do I have to take separate exams to be certified in delinquency or dependency?

Answer: No. The exam tests all aspects of juvenile law. The exam is formatted so the morning portion covers all aspects of juvenile law, and the afternoon portion allows examinees to test on the subspecialty topic (delinquency or dependency) of their choice. Applicants will be required to select whether to take the subspecialty portion on delinquency or dependency at the time of application.

What if I only practice in delinquency or dependency, not both?

Answer: It is understood that a typical juvenile law practice may involve more of one subspecialty than the other. The application is designed so that applicants can use a variety of juvenile law experiences to meet the substantial involvement requirement. The exam covers all aspects of juvenile law in the morning session, and only the subspecialty selected (delinquency or dependency) in the afternoon.

Can I qualify for Juvenile Law Certification if I do not practice in dependency or delinquency court, or if I don't have a trial practice?

Answer: Yes. Although the board certification examination does focus on dependency and delinquency practice, Juvenile Law Certification is not limited to dependency and

2017 Juvenile Law Certification Applications Frequently Asked Questions

delinquency practitioners and is not a trial certification. All attorneys with expertise in representing or advocating on behalf of children, as well as those involved in delinquency and dependency cases, are eligible to apply for certification. Education law matters, immigration, health care, developmental services, and government benefits are just some of the areas outside of delinquency and dependency in which attorneys may specialize in representing children. Teaching, coordinating law school clinics, advocating before state agencies, participating in rule-making, drafting legislation, researching, and publishing are some of the non-litigation activities of attorneys involved in juvenile law. We offer these areas of law and activities as examples, not by way of limitation. All board certification candidates, including those who do not practice in dependency or delinquency court, will be asked to fully and thoughtfully explain their substantial experience in juvenile law in the application.

2017 Juvenile Law Certification Applications Frequently Asked Questions

Important Dates and Deadlines

When will the application be available?

Answer: The application for the 2017 exam is currently available online by visiting www.floridabar.org/certification, and clicking Board Certification and Recertification followed by Juvenile Law.

What is the application filing deadline?

Answer: Applications must be filed by October 31, 2016 for the 2017 exam, and annually by October 31 thereafter. Applicants are permitted to file the application before completing the requirements, and supplement the application prior to the October 31 filing deadline. Please note that the application filing fee is non-refundable.

When and where is the exam?

Answer: May, 2017, at the Tampa Hilton Westshore on Lois Avenue.

What is the exam testing schedule?

Answer: The exam is 6 hours of testing, with 3 hours administered in the morning and 3 hours after a lunch break. Part I will contain 75 multiple choice questions covering all aspects of juvenile law, and one essay question. The afternoon session (Part II) is considered the “subspecialty” portion and will consist of 25 multiple choice and 2 essay questions testing specialty knowledge on either delinquency or dependency, as selected at the time of application.

When will I know if I am approved to sit for the exam?

Answer: Exam eligibility notification letters are typically mailed the last week of March.

When will I be notified of my exam results?

Answer: Exam results are typically mailed the last week of July.

When will I officially become certified?

Answer: Applicants for the 2017 whose applications are approved, and either pass the exam or are granted an exemption, will be officially certified as of August 1, 2017. Applicants thereafter will be certified as of August 1 of the year in which the exam is administered.

2017 Juvenile Law Certification Applications Frequently Asked Questions

Grandfathering/20 Year Exam Exemption

Can I qualify for juvenile law certification without taking the exam?

Answer: Yes, but only for the first two years of the exam. In accordance with [Rule 6-29.3\(f\), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar](#), applicants for the 2017 or 2018 exam who have been practicing law for a minimum of 20 years as of October 31, 2016 [for the 2017 exam] or October 31, 2017 [for the 2018 exam], may qualify for an exemption from the examination commonly known as “grandfathering.”

What does grandfathering do?

Answer: Grandfathering exempts qualified applicants from sitting for the exam. All other requirements in [Rule 6-29.3, Rules Regulating The Florida Bar](#), must still be met, and an application must be filed by the October 31 deadline.

Must all “20 years in the practice on a full-time basis” have been in Florida?

Answer: No. The “practice of law” is defined in [Rule 6-3.5\(c\)\(1\)](#) and is not limited to practice solely in Florida. Additionally, the 20 years need not be consecutive.

Do I have to file an application if I qualify for the exemption?

Answer: Yes, all individuals wanting to be board certified in juvenile law must file an application by October 31, 2016 to be considered for the 2017 class.

When will I know if I have been granted the exemption?

Answer: Applicants will be notified in writing the last week of March as to the status of their application and the exam exemption or eligibility.

Are there any fees associated with the 20-year exemption?

Answer: Yes. Applicants who are grandfathered must pay the \$150 certification fee set forth in [BLSE Policy 2.04\(b\)](#) before receiving their certificate and being coded as certified. Invoices for this fee will be sent after applicants are notified of their eligibility for this exemption and prior to the August 1 certification date.

2017 Juvenile Law Certification Applications Frequently Asked Questions

Continuing Legal Education Requirements (Juvenile Law Certification CLE)

How many juvenile law certification CLE hours are required?

Answer: In accordance with [Rule 6-29.3\(d\)](#), applicants must earn a minimum of 50.0 hours of approved juvenile law certification CLE credit between September 1, 2013 and October 31, 2016 for the 2017 exam.

What is an “accreditation period” for a CLE program?

Answer: Pursuant to BLSE Policy 5.04(b), “The accreditation period of a course will not exceed 18 months from the date of the first course offering.” This means that if you listen to a recording of a CLE program more than 18 months after the original recording date, the program is expired and ineligible for juvenile law certification CLE credits. For example, completing a program that was recorded June 18, 2014 on September 15, 2016 will not qualify for credit, because the program expired on December 18, 2015.

What is the deadline to complete the required number of juvenile law certification CLE credits for the 2017 exam?

Answer: [Rule 6-29.3 \(d\)](#) requires the 50.0 hours of approved juvenile law certification CLE credit be completed during the 3-year period immediately preceding the date of application. For the 2017 exam, all credits must have been earned between September 1, 2013 and October 31, 2016.

How do I know if courses and activities I have previously reported qualify for juvenile law certification CLE credit?

Answer: Bar members should log in to their My Florida Bar account and click Show More under My Board Certifications. Members will use the drop down menu to select Juvenile Law from the list. All courses completed during the requisite time period will be listed. If a course qualifies for juvenile law certification credit, the applicable number of hours will also be listed.

What do I do if I see a course on my CLE report that does not show as earning credit for juvenile law, but I think it should?

Answer: If there is a course on the CLE History record that a member believes deserves juvenile law certification CLE credit but credit is not given, contact Certification Specialist for Juvenile Law, Ms. Julie Coiro, at jcoiro@floridabar.org or by phone at 850-561-3143.

Is there an extension of time if I cannot complete the required number of juvenile law certification CLE credits by October 31, 2016?

Answer: No. If the credits cannot be completed by October 31, 2016, applicants should consider applying for the 2018 examination. The date range to complete the CLE requirement for the 2018 exam is September 1, 2014 – October 31, 2017.

2017 Juvenile Law Certification Applications Frequently Asked Questions

Before I sign up for a course, how can I tell if it qualifies for juvenile law certification CLE credit?

Answer: The 200 Series of the Standing Committee Policies contains the requirements an activity must meet to qualify for juvenile law certification CLE credit. This policy also contains a list of sponsors which have been preapproved for juvenile law certification CLE credit.

What types of things can I do to earn juvenile law certification CLE credit?

Answer: Applicants may earn juvenile law certification CLE credits by attending live presentations (including webinars and teleconferences and completing individual study activities (online programs, audio programs, DVDs). Applicants may also earn credit via individual activities such as lectures, published written materials, university teaching, and university attendance.

Is there a separate ethics/professional responsibility requirement for certification applicants?

Answer: No. Applicants must remain members in good standing of The Florida Bar and therefore must complete the ethics portion of the CLER credit requirements.

How can I find CLE courses that qualify for juvenile law certification CLE credit?

Answer: To meet this requirement, applicants may consider obtaining individual study credit through the use of on-line courses that cover topics listed under Juvenile Law Certification Standing Committee Policy 2.01(a) and/or courses offered by any of the providers listed under Juvenile Law Standing Committee Policy 2.01(d). Some recorded trainings and conference workshops that may be approved for Juvenile Law Certification credit are posted on the websites listed below. Please note this list is not all-inclusive and the Juvenile Law Certification Committee, the Board of Legal Specialization and Education, the Board Certification Program and The Florida Bar are not endorsing any of the sponsors listed below. Other agencies and associations may also have eligible CLEs available on line. Applicants may also want to check local law libraries, local Bar associations, and other organizations which may provide quality CLE activities. Additionally, The Bar provides a listing of [OnDemand](#) CLE activities categorized by subject online.

Note: Always remember to check the recording date of a program to ensure it has not expired pursuant to [BLSE Policy 5.04\(b\)](#).

Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program

<http://guardianadlitem.org/training-advocacy-resources/conferences-training/>

Florida's Center for Child Welfare

<http://www.centerforchildwelfare.org/>

Crossroads Florida Kids, Inc., Florida's Children First, Inc., and the Community Law Program, Inc.

<http://crossroadsfloridakids.org/resources/training-videos/>

Center for Children's Rights

<http://jaxccr.org/>

2017 Juvenile Law Certification Applications Frequently Asked Questions

Examination

What is the exam format?

Answer: The exam is comprised of two parts, administered in one day. Part I is the morning session, and will contain 75 multiple choice questions covering all aspects of juvenile law and one essay question. The afternoon session (Part II) is considered the “subspecialty” portion and will consist of 25 multiple choice and 2 essay questions testing specialty knowledge on either delinquency or dependency, as selected at the time of application.

How is the exam scored?

Answer: 70% of the total points possible will be earned from the morning (Part I) portion of the exam. 30% of the total points possible will be earned from the afternoon (Part II, subspecialty) portion of the exam.

When/how do I select which subspecialty topic (delinquency or dependency) I want to test on?

Answer: Applicants will indicate their choice in Exhibit C of the application. Once the application has been filed, this choice cannot be changed.

Am I required to know both delinquency and dependency?

Answer: Yes. Examinees are required to know the aspects of juvenile law identified in the [Exam Specifications](#). These topics will be tested in greater detail and at a higher competency level in the afternoon subspecialty portion. The Exam Specifications indicate which topics are only considered subspecialty knowledge. Applicants indicate at the time of application filing which subspecialty topic they will be testing. They are not required to know the subspecialty topics for the subspecialty on which they will not be testing.

Is learning a whole separate subspecialty for the exam even possible?

Answer: Examinees must possess a base level of knowledge in all aspects of juvenile law to earn board certification. The Exam Specifications contain resources which may be useful to assist examinees in learning the areas which they do not encounter in their typical practice. The exam is structured so that examinees will select only delinquency or dependency questions in the afternoon portion. The Exam Specifications indicate which aspects of delinquency and dependency may only be tested in the afternoon “subspecialty” portion of the exam.

Is the exam administered by laptop or do I draft my answers by hand?

Answer: The Bar offers examinees the option of testing by hand or by using a program called SofTest provided by Examsoft to take the exam via laptop. Laptops will be used for the essay portion only. The multiple choice questions will be answered on a scantron bubblesheet using a #2 pencil.

2017 Juvenile Law Certification Applications Frequently Asked Questions

Substantial Involvement/Practical Experience

I have been working full time in the juvenile law arena for a number of years. During the past 5 years, however, I have been in management. All my “fully adjudicated matters” occurred prior to the past 5 years. I work full-time in the practice of juvenile law, but I no longer litigate directly. Do I still qualify for certification?

Answer: For good cause shown, the Certification Committee may substitute “other experience” for the 20 required fully adjudicated trials or appellate proceedings. It is the intent of the Committee to include attorneys in management in government agencies, such as Children’s Legal Services, the Guardian ad Litem program, State’s Attorneys and Public Defender’s Offices, the Offices of Regional Conflict Counsel, etc. Your work must meet the “practice of law” requirements of Rule 6-3.5(c)(1), Rules Regulating the Florida Bar for the requisite periods of time.

To substantiate your request to substitute your “other” experience, it would be best if you would fully detail your duties during the period of time in which you have been in management. For example, you might include that you supervise X number of attorneys and assist them in preparing for trial, work with them on determining the agency’s response to interpreting unclear statutes, etc. You might wish to include, if applicable, that you work with your colleagues in determining how to best implement new laws, whether statutory or principles of case law. If you assist with legislative analyses during session, you might wish to include this. You should also include training, including interaction with your agency’s partners, such as the foster care lead agencies or DJJ.

You should still detail those cases which do qualify as fully adjudicated trials, as defined, or appellate matters, that you have handled during the past 5 years, in addition to including a fully detailed request to waive the litigation requirement (in whole or in part, depending on your situation) and substitute your management experience in juvenile law.

The Committee cannot make any guarantees that any specific situation will provide “good cause” to waive the fully adjudicated trials, but it is certainly the Committee’s intent that anyone who is, and has been, working full-time in an area of Juvenile Law should qualify for certification.

Could an evidentiary hearing where evidence is presented and legal argument taken qualify as a fully adjudicated trial?

Answer: The Certification Committee is aware that many children's lawyers are appointed after the dependency adjudicatory hearing takes place and do not have cases go to trial on TPR. If an applicant who is substantially engaged in the practice of juvenile law is in that circumstance, it is appropriate to submit information on experience with evidentiary hearings and other contested proceedings in accordance with [Rule 6-29.3\(b\)\(3\)](#). For example, contested motions for reunification, contested motions for permanent guardianship or contested motions to suppress in a delinquency case would likely qualify.