

# **The Dependency and Probate Court Processes— Understanding what’s happening when children are in court.**

Kristin Mateer, East Bay Children’s Law Offices

*Provided by Family Paths in conjunction with Chabot-Las Positas Community College District and Alameda County through Title IV-E Funding.*

*Target Audience:*

*This training is geared towards family partners, resource family advocates and clinicians working with children, youth and families involved with CPS in Alameda County.*

*This workshop is available to you **free of charge**.*

## **Workshop Description**

This training is designed to explain the basic framework of two court processes involving the custody of children—the juvenile dependency process and the probate guardianship process. You will learn who initiates each court process, what rights and responsibilities different individuals have within each process, the series of hearings that occur in each court, and what determinations are being made at each hearing. The two systems will be compared and contrasted throughout. You will hear from an attorney who has represented children in both systems about how clinicians and attorneys can work together to support their mutual clients throughout either process and what is at stake in terms of outcomes for children and families. The role of the attorney will be explained as well as the roles of other service providers and individuals within both court systems.

## **The Trainer**

Kristin Mateer is a co-founder of East Bay Children’s Law Offices, founded in 2009, and its Executive Director since April of 2018. She is a Child Welfare Law Specialist who began representing both children and parents in the juvenile dependency system in 1998 with the Alameda County Public Defender’s Office. After the founding of EBCLLO which was created when the Public Defender closed its dependency office, she became a Managing Attorney and supervised dozens of lawyers and continued her own practice representing children. In 2011, she created EBCLLO’s Probate Guardianship for Children program and began representing children in probate guardianship proceedings. She continues to represent a handful of children in each court system. Prior to going to law school, Kristin was a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate through San Francisco CASA. Kristin then served on the Advisory Board of Alameda County CASA from 2009-2018 serving as

its Chair from 2011-2018. She has a BA in Political Science from UCLA and a JD from UC Hastings College of the Law. She is a member of the National Association of Counsel for Children. And she’s the mom of two amazing daughters!

The mission of East Bay Children’s Law Offices is to protect and defend the rights of children and youth through effective, vigorous and compassionate legal advocacy. EBCLLO strives to provide a voice for children in and out of the courtroom and to promote positive outcomes for them.

## **Workshop Goals**

1. Be able to identify two key differences between the dependency and probate guardianship court systems.
2. Summarize the court process in each court.
3. Be able to name benefits of collaborating with children’s attorneys or other court involved individuals.

## **When**

**Tuesday August 28, 2018**

**9:00 am to 11:00 am**

## **Where**

Family Paths  
1727 Martin Luther King Jr. Way  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Room 108

**Registration is required.**

**To register send an email to**

**[kmichaels@familypaths.org](mailto:kmichaels@familypaths.org)**

**Please include any requests for accommodations for disability.**

**Coffee, Tea & Breakfast snacks provided**

If you have a complaint about the performance of Family Paths staff or instructors, and/or you feel you or someone else has been treated unfairly or discriminated against you may call 510-893-9230 to speak with the Program Administrator.

See Training Grievance Policy on back for details.

## Course Schedule:

- Introduction—what is East Bay Children’s Law Offices?
- Court System Overview:
  - What’s the difference between Dependency Court and Probate Court?
  - Brief explanation of Juvenile Delinquency Court and Family Court
- What is the role of the child’s attorney in each court?
  - Who else is involved in the court process?
  - What does the courtroom look like?
- Explanation of the Dependency Court Process from Intake to Permanency
  - Defining abuse and neglect
  - What is foster care? How are relatives involved?
  - Reunification process
  - What happens when reunification doesn’t?
- Explanation of the Probate Court Process
  - Resources for families interested in probate guardianships
- How to work with attorneys
- Other community based resources for kids in court

**Cancellation Policy:** We do not charge for our trainings at present and space is limited. **If you cannot attend we ask that you contact us as soon as possible in order to open up that seat to someone else.** If a training is cancelled, participants are notified via email no later than one week prior to the training if possible. If a trainer has an emergency and notifies the training department in less than week, those registered for the training are notified as soon as possible. Training registrants are provided the makeup date that is scheduled for the training.

**Disability Accommodation:** Family Paths will make reasonable efforts during the training to accommodate qualified individuals with disabilities and/or medical conditions in accordance/compliance with the State Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and applicable statutes. To request an accommodation due to a disability/medical condition during this training, please contact the Clinical Training Coordinator no later than 5 days before the training. The buildings where most of our trainings are conducted are wheelchair accessible and have disabled parking available.

**Training Grievance Policy:** Family Paths is committed to providing a work/learning environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. A participant of trainings has the right to seek a remedy for a dispute or disagreement through Family Path’s policies for filing complaints/grievances for participants. Training participants may use available informal means to have decisions reconsidered before filing a formal complaint/grievance. No retaliation of any kind shall be taken against a participant for filing a complaint/grievance. In an effort to provide the highest quality services to participants in our trainings, you are encouraged to report immediately any concerns regarding your training experience to the Clinical Training Coordinator who will provide the complaint form. All participant complaints /grievances should be in writing (which may be in your own language) to the Clinical Training Coordinator, Family Paths, 1727 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Suite #109 Oakland, CA 94612 or by email to kmichaels@familypaths.org. Once a complaint or grievance has been submitted, you can expect a response no later than ten (10) business days. Upon receipt the Clinical Training Coordinator will conduct a formal review of the complaint/grievance and will attempt a timely resolution, taking appropriate corrective action if warranted by the investigation. If no resolution is forthcoming, or the problem is not satisfactorily resolved, the participant may direct any complaint/grievance to the Program Administrator, Family Paths’ Clinical Director.

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