



Trauma-Informed Care Training for Legal Professionals

Trauma is pervasive and impacts all of us, children and adults. One way we can be responsive, healing centered, and recovery oriented in this space is to normalize that which we know is real. Building a form of care centered and informed by trauma can help promote a culture of safety, trust, empowerment and choice, and peer support. In collaboration with the Children's Commission and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), this document has been created to provide trauma-informed care training resources for legal professionals.

The training resources provided in this document were collected in a collaborative effort between the SAMHSA Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC), the Cross Systems Trauma-informed Care initiative led by Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Statewide Collaborative on Trauma-informed Care led by the Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families (Children's Commission). This information has been compiled from multiple sources and the MHTTC, HHSC and the Children's Commission cannot guarantee either the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the information or the effectiveness of the trainings listed. The MHTTC, HHSC and the Children's Commission do not endorse any one training resource, modality, or curriculum. This document is intended to serve as a non-exhaustive list of resources as the field continues to change and evolve regarding trauma. This document is up to date as of December 2020.

Training Resources

National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) - [Creating a Trauma-Informed System: The Important Collaboration Between CACs and the Courts](#) (FREE) - Collaboration between children's advocacy centers (CACs) and the juvenile justice system can be one important step towards creating a trauma-informed continuum for children that bridges multiple systems. To assist judges and court personnel in these efforts, the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) have partnered to create a webinar that focuses on what judges show know about the CAC model and how CACs can help minimize additional trauma for children who are victims of crimes. The webinar is also designed to help participants learn how to evaluate their local CAC and other community resources and to work towards implementing trauma-informed practices and a victim-centered approach in their court and community.

National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) Learning Center - The NCTSN Learning Center provides hundreds of free education and training resources in the areas of assessment, treatment and services, training, research and evaluation, and organizational and systems change for traumatized children, adolescents, and their families. Continuing education credits are available for many courses in this expanding online catalog that has been developed for mental health professionals, parents and caregivers, policymakers, and others who work with and care about children and adolescents.



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – [Trauma Training for Criminal Justice](#)

[Professionals](#) (FREE) - The GAINS Center offers training that helps educate criminal justice professionals about the impact of trauma and how to develop trauma-informed responses.

Texas Lawyers for Children - Texas Lawyers for Children (TLC), a program of the Child Protection Connection®, protects the rights of abused and neglected children in the courts, the community, and the legislature. TLC engages in legal and legislative advocacy, legal education efforts, and public awareness events -- all with one goal -- to protect the legal rights of abused children and improve their court case and life outcomes.

[Judicial Summit: Understanding Trauma](#) (Cost Associated) - Improving Outcomes for Children & Youth in Care - The Texas Judicial Summit features speakers from multiple disciplines, to help judges, attorneys, and others in the child welfare system to understand the impact of trauma on children and improve outcomes for abused children and youth in the civil court cases that determine every aspect of their future in the child protection system.

[Legal Professional Trauma Training](#) (Cost Associated) – This program discusses the impact of trauma on children and the effect responses and decisions by adults have on children's recovery and case outcomes. It also focuses on how to provide children with the tools they need for healing and how to prevent re-traumatization of children in our child welfare and juvenile justice systems and ways professionals can transform the system to one that is trauma-informed. Additionally, former foster youth participate in the training to share their experiences.

[A Trauma-Informed Approach to Education of Abused and Neglected Children \(with Case Studies\)](#) (Cost Associated) - In 2013, the Texas Legislature mandated that judges and attorneys handling civil cases involving abused and neglected children must oversee the child's education and ensure that the child's academic needs are being met. This program educates judges and attorneys about how trauma impact a child's brain and ability to learn. Limited to judges and attorneys using the Texas Lawyer for Children Online Center, located at www.TexasLawyersforChildren.org

[Understanding Ways a Trauma-Informed Classroom Can Help Abused and Neglected Children \(Learning and Behavioral Issues\)](#) (Cost Associated) - In 2013, the Texas Legislature mandated that judges and attorneys handling civil cases involving abused and neglected children must oversee the child's education and ensure that the child's academic needs are being met. This program educates judges and attorneys about how trauma impact a child's brain and ability to learn. Limited to judges and attorneys using the Texas Lawyer for Children Online Center, located at www.TexasLawyersforChildren.org

See also Trauma-Informed Care Training Resources for Child Welfare Professionals, Caregivers, Juvenile Justice Professionals, Mental Health Professionals, Victim Services Professionals, Schools, and Anti-Racism.