



COURSE NAME / NUMBER

LEARNING OBJECTIVES / GOALS / OUTCOMES / LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

At a Personal Level:

- 1. Clarify your beliefs and values as they relate to the use of power inherent in the application of laws related to your practice as a social service professional.
- 2. Critically reflect upon your knowledge base about the law and legal skills as social service professionals, your ability to understand, critique and use relevant literature and research on this content, and your need for additional training.
- 3. Understand your professional obligations in relation to dispute resolution, advocacy, investigations and testifying in court.

At a Theoretical Level:

- 4. Understand the link between law, social policy, social change and social justice in your practice.
- 5. Identify the range of options available to social service professionals when applying the laws related to social services, including dispute resolution, advocacy, and formal legal proceedings.
- 6. Relate the larger theoretical and policy issues to the application of skills in practice situations, e.g., feminist legal theory, structural theory, ecological systems theory, and developmental theory.

At a Practice Level:

- 7. Apply a continuum of dispute resolution skills of negotiation, mediation, arbitration and consensus building to practice situations.
- 8. Describe and apply appropriate advocacy skills in practice situations.
- 9. Demonstrate the process of investigative interviews and the documentation and presentation of the results of investigations in formal legal processes.
- 10. Demonstrate the skills of giving evidence in a formal legal setting.
- 11. Identify the impacts that the various legal and quasi-legal processes may have on children, youth and families.

METHODS:

The course will be conducted in lecture/discussion style with exposure to guest speakers, videos, class discussion, and small group activities. Students may be required to attend court and to participate in the demonstration of skills related to the material (e.g., evidence giving, advocacy, mediation, etc.)

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

Credit can be awarded for this course through PLAR YES   X   NO       

METHODS OF OBTAINING PLAR:

Portfolio.

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:

[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]

Required Text:

Uhlemann, M.R., & Turner, D., eds. (1998). *A Legal Handbook for the Helping Professional* (Second Edition). Victoria, BC: The Sedgewick Society for Consumer and Public Education.

Reference Texts:

Bala, N., Hornick, J.P., & Vogl, R., eds. (1991). *Canadian Child Welfare Law: Children, Families and the State*. Toronto, ON: Thompson Educational Publishing, Inc.  
Shields, K. (1994). *In the Tiger's Mouth: An Empowerment Guide for Social Action*. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers

Films:

May Street Group Film. (1997). *Family Mediation: We Can Work It Out*. University of Victoria Institute for Dispute Resolution (plus discussion guide).  
Spangler, Bruce. (2000). *Protection*. Thoughtcrime Productions/Red Storm Productions.

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

Students are responsible for the cost of any and all supplies related to the course.

STUDENT EVALUATION:

[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]

Learning Activities	30%
Written Assignment	30%
Final Written Assignment	40%



**COURSE CONTENT:**

[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

**Module One: Introduction**

Week 1: Foundational Concepts

Week 2: Foundational Skills

**Module Two: Dispute Resolution Skills**

Week 3: An Overview of Dispute Resolution

Week 4: Consensus Building

Week 5: Negotiation and Mediation

Week 6: Arbitration and Administrative Decision-Making

**Module Three: Advocacy Skills**

Week 7: Child and Family Advocacy

Week 8: Systemic Advocacy and Political Lobbying

**Module Four: Legal Skills**

Week 9: Investigation and Assessment

Week 10: Evidence Collation and Report Writing

Week 11: Evidence Giving

Week 12: Statutory Supervision and Guardianship Responsibilities

**Module Five: Conclusion**

Week 13: Developing a Personal Framework for Practicing Legal Skills