## OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION

Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use.

### FACULTY/DEPARTMENT:
- School of Social Work and Human Services

### COURSE NAME/NUMBER
- SOWK 412
- SSSW 412

### FORMER COURSE NUMBER
- 3

### UCFV CREDITS
- 3

### COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE
- Legal Skills for Social Work Practice

### CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
This course focuses on both the development and demonstration of statutory social work practice skills in child welfare, youth criminal justice, and family court counselling. Students learn and demonstrate skills related to the various mandates that govern their work as professional social workers. The course involves experiential learning related to dispute resolution, advocacy, and legal skills such as investigation, evidence-giving, and report writing. Fundamental to practicing these skills is an understanding of empowerment, partnership, working across differences, and individual and systemic change. The course uses a critical perspective and promotes an understanding of the strengths and limitations of these skills and the legal system.

### PREREQUISITES:
- CYC 310A & B, or SOWK 330; and CYC 350 or SOWK 312. Enrollment in this course is restricted to CYC and BSW students in the Child Welfare Specialization.

### COREQUISITES:

### SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S)

### SERVICE COURSE TO:

### STRUCTURE OF HOURS

| Lectures: | 15 Hrs |
| Seminar: | 15 Hrs |
| Laboratory: | Hrs |
| Field Experience: | 10 Hrs |
| Student Directed Learning: | 5 Hrs |
| Other (Specify): | Hrs |

### TOTAL HOURS PER TERM:
- 45

### TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION

### LENGTH OF COURSE:

### HOURS PER DAY:

### MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT:
- 24

### EXPECTED FREQUENCY OF COURSE OFFERINGS:
- One section per year

### WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)
- Yes [x] No

### WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)
- Yes [x] No

### TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:
- Yes [x] No

### AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:
- Course Designer(s):
  - Curtis Magnuson & Karen Hedman
- Chairperson:
  - (Curriculum Committee)
- Department Head:
  - Dr. Gloria Wolfson, Director
- Dean:
  - Dr. Jacalyn Snodgrass
- PAC Approval in Principle Date:
  - PAC Final Approval Date: November 26, 2003
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 professional social work practice.
2. Critically reflect upon your knowledge of the law and the legal skills required of professional social workers.
3. Understand, critique and apply relevant literature and research, as well as identify areas where additional training is required.
4. Understand your professional obligations in relation to dispute resolution, advocacy, investigations, and testifying in court.

**At a Theoretical Level:**
4. Understand the relationship between law, social policy, social change, and social justice in your practice.
5. Identify the range of options available to social work professionals when applying the laws related to social services, including dispute resolution, advocacy and formal legal proceedings.
6. Relate larger theoretical and policy issues to the application of skills in practice situations (e.g., feminist theory, structural theory, ecological systems theory, 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 interviewing and the documentation and presentation of the results of investigations in formal legal proceedings.
10. Demonstrate the skills of giving evidence in a formal legal setting.
11. Identify the impact that the various legal and quasi-legal processes may have on children, youth, and families.

**METHODS:**
The course will be conducted in lecture 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 (Please check :)  
☐ Yes  ☒ No

**METHODS OF OBTAINING PLAR:**
As part of the Child Welfare Specialization, the Ministry of Children and Family Development requires that this course be completed before students may proceed to a partially-delegated practicum in a child protection setting.

**TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:**
[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]


Other readings as assigned by the instructor.

**SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:**
### STUDENT EVALUATION:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignment on the Application of Framework for Practice to a Case Study</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigative Report on Child Protection (removal, custody and access, youth custody)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstration of Legal Skills (Mediation, Consensus-building, Negotiation, Evidence-giving)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COURSE CONTENT:

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

- **Week 1:** Foundational Concepts & Legal Skills
- **Week 2:** Child Protection Law and the Court System
- **Week 3:** Investigative Interviewing and Risk Assessment
- **Week 4:** Confidentiality and Report Writing
- **Week 5:** Removal
- **Week 6:** Alternative Dispute Resolution
- **Week 7:** Restorative Justice and the Criminal Legal System
- **Week 8:** Disclosure
- **Week 9:** Presenting a Case to the Court
- **Week 10:** Evidence Giving
- **Week 11:** Demonstration of Giving Evidence
- **Week 12:** Demonstration of Giving Evidence
- **Week 13:** Demonstration of Giving Evidence