

**FREE VIRTUAL CLE/CEU**

*The New Louisiana Law on*

# **PERMANENT PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

*What You Need to Know About Act 350*

**JANUARY 20, 2022  
12 - 1 P.M.**

***Register for free:  
[bit.ly/Cafe-Jan20](https://bit.ly/Cafe-Jan20)***

On June 17, 2021, Act 350 became law. It created new requirements for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to follow regarding placing children into foster care. This training will provide an overview of the Act 350 requirements and responsibilities as well as helpful resources.



For more info contact (985) 624-3514



# OBJECTIVES

- **Introduce new legislation** (Act 350) regarding requirements for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to complete diligent searches for adult relatives and significant individuals of children who enter foster care and a new Permanency Hearing finding for children under the age of 6 in certain circumstances.
- **Educate stakeholders** on how the Act allows the court, current caregiver, or child, within 15 days of a placement change, to motion for a contradictory hearing to determine whether removal from the current caregiver was in the child's best interest.
- **Inform stakeholders** on their responsibilities relative to Act 350.
- **Provide helpful resources** on Act 350 to participants.

# SPEAKERS



**Curtis Nelson** | *Deputy Judicial Administrator, Division of Children and Families, Louisiana Supreme Court*

Curtis Nelson earned a B.S. degree in psychology with a minor in sociology from LSU in 1992. He graduated Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans in 1997. Curtis has worked as an adolescence mental health technician, a court appointed special advocate, a parent's attorney in child in need of care proceedings, a child's attorney in delinquency proceedings, and as the Juvenile Section Chief for the 19th Judicial District Attorney's Office. Currently, Curtis serves as the Deputy Judicial Administrator for the Louisiana Supreme Court-Division of Children and Families. The division is involved in several Louisiana initiatives to improve the juvenile justice system for children and families.



**Rhenda Hodnett** | *Assistant Secretary of Child Welfare, Department of Children & Family Services*

Rhenda Hodnett, Ph.D., LCSW, is the Assistant Secretary of Child Welfare for the Louisiana Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) where she is responsible for the strategic planning, development and oversight of the state child welfare system. Dr. Hodnett has committed than 30 years to public child welfare service, and has held various caseworker, supervisory, policy and program development, and management positions across all program areas.



**Mona Michelli** | *Deputy Assistant Secretary of Child Welfare Programs and Operations, Department of Children and Families*

Mona Michelli, LCSW, is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Child Welfare Programs and Operations with the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. She has served in many capacities with DCFS, including that of a Foster Care worker; Adoptions worker; Foster Care Supervisor; Child Welfare Manager and Area Director in Baton Rouge; and a Program Manager over Child Protective Services and In-Home Services. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who received a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Southeastern Louisiana University and Master's degree in Social Work from Louisiana State University.



**Candice LeBlanc** | *Deputy General Counsel 2, Bureau of General Counsel, Department of Children and Families*

Candice S. LeBlanc is the Deputy General Counsel 2 assigned to the Child Welfare program at DCFS. In addition to her state office duties, she currently supervises 32 attorneys statewide who represent the Department in various child welfare related matters. She has been employed with the Department since 1994. She is a graduate of Nicholls State University and Louisiana State University (J.D.-1991)

# SCHEDULE

## Welcome and Closing

- **Curtis Nelson**, J.D., Deputy Judicial Administrator, Division of Children and Families, Louisiana Supreme Court

## Speakers

- **Rhenda Hodnett**, Assistant Secretary of Child Welfare, Department of Children & Family Services
- **Mona Michelli**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Child Welfare Programs and Operations, Department of Children and Families
- **Candice LeBlanc**, Deputy General Counsel 2, Bureau of General Counsel, Department of Children and Families

12:00 - 12:05PM	Welcome
12:05 - 12:15PM	Introduction to Act 350: Background and Context
12:15 - 12:30PM	Act 350 Changes and Enactments to the Louisiana Children's Code
12:30 - 12:45PM	Duties of Stakeholders as it relates to Act 350
12:45 - 12:55PM	Questions and Answers
12:55 - 1:00PM	Closing

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