



JUVENILE LAW CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION SPECIFICATIONS



Purpose of Examination

The Juvenile Law Certification Examination is intended to test whether an applicant possesses the knowledge, skills, abilities, ethics, and judgments that are common to specialists in juvenile law. It is also intended to be a valid and reliable measurement to justify the representation of special competence and professionalism that distinguishes a “Florida Bar Board Certified Lawyer.”

Examination Content

The Juvenile Law Certification Examination consists of a combination of essay and multiple choice questions covering substantive and procedural Juvenile law in state court. Fifty percent (50%) of the exam covers topics in which all juvenile law practitioners should have proficiency, including questions in areas related to topics in delinquency and dependency law. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the exam covers Delinquency topics, with more specificity and depth. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the exam covers Dependency topics, with more specificity and depth. The inclusion of subtopics under some topic headings is provided to assist applicants in preparing for the examination and does not preclude the inclusion of other subtopics in the examination

Topics that may be covered on the Juvenile Law Certification Examination include:

- Ethical Issues in Representation of any Party or Participant in Proceedings involving Juveniles
 - Role of Counsel
 - Client Communications
 - Expressed Preferences
 - Scope of Representation
- Global View of Juvenile Proceedings
 - Comparison of Adult Criminal Justice and Juvenile Justice Systems
 - US Supreme Court Landmark Delinquency and Dependency Cases
 - Confidentiality of Proceedings
- Right to Counsel in Juvenile Proceedings
 - Waiver
 - Ineffective Assistance of Counsel
- Juvenile Law Practice and Procedure (Trial and Appellate)
 - Jurisdiction and Venue

- Trial Practice and Procedure
- Children's Testimony
- Appellate Law and Practice
- Extraordinary Writs
- Contempt
- Investigative Interviewing (Child/Parent)
- Childhood Development
 - Developmental Stages
 - Adolescent Brain Development
 - Developmental Delay
 - Effects of Trauma
 - Child's Perception of Time
 - Attachment Theory
 - Childhood Sexual Behavior
- Health Care
 - Medicaid/EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment)
 - Consent
 - Confidentiality
 - Developmental Services (APD)
 - Administration of Medication
 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse
 - Baker Acts
 - Marchman Acts
 - Competency in Delinquency and Dependency proceedings
 - Capacity to Parent (Dependency)
 - Residential Treatment Placements
 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse Evaluations
- Schools/Education
 - Discipline
 - Truancy
 - Special Educational Services
 - School Placement Stability
 - Early Education/Child Care
- Immigration
 - State Court Jurisdiction
 - Access to Needed Services (Health, Mental Health, Education)
 - Immigration Relief Available to Children
 - Collateral Immigration Consequences
- Special Populations
 - Survivors of Human Trafficking
 - Cross Over/Dually Involved Youth

- CINS/FINS
 - LGBTQ Children and Youth
- Parental Rights, Responsibilities, and Obligations (e.g. Child Support and Restitution)
- Social Security
 - Supplemental Security Income
 - Other Social Security Benefits
- Interstate Compacts
 - Interstate Compact for Juveniles
 - Interstate Compact on Placement of Children
- Custody and Intake
 - Arrest and Detention
 - Juvenile Assessment Centers (JACs)
 - Fingerprinting
 - Interrogation of Minors
 - Juvenile Detention Centers (JDCs)
- Detention Criteria
 - Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI)
 - Transfer to adult jails
 - Detention hearings
 - Lengths of detention
 - Detention of escapees/absconders
 - Prolific Juvenile Offenders
- Diversion
 - Civil Citation
 - Teen Court
 - Pre- and post-arrest diversion
 - Neighborhood Restorative Justice
 - Community Arbitration
- Filing decisions of the State Attorney
- Delinquency Examinations and Evaluations (medical, psychological, substance abuse, education)
 - Pre- and post-adjudicatory hearings
 - Children in detention
 - Children not in care/custody of DJJ
- Competency to proceed in delinquency proceedings
 - Determinations of competency

- Mental illness
 - Intellectual disability
 - Autism
 - Age/immaturity
 - Placements
 - Motions in competency proceedings
- Pretrial intervention programs
 - Substance abuse
 - Mental health
- Delinquency Arraignments
 - Process and service
 - Petitions of delinquency
- Fifth and Sixth Amendment Issues
 - Suppression of statements
 - Suppression of evidence
 - Custodial interrogations
 - Encounters, stops and seizures
- Motion Practice and Discovery
 - Depositions
 - presence of parent
 - competency of witness to testify
 - Confidentiality of school records of accused and/or witnesses
 - Marsy's law
- Adjudicatory hearings in Delinquency
 - Time limitations
 - Conducting the hearing
 - Findings of guilt
- Delinquency Dispositions
 - Predisposition reports
 - Comprehensive evaluations
 - Disposition hearings
 - Probation
 - Commitment
 - Disposition orders
 - Post commitment probation
 - Other dispositional issues:
 - Driver licenses
 - Restitution
 - Gun offenses
 - School placements

- Commitments
 - Restrictiveness levels
 - Juvenile Sexual Offenders
 - Juvenile Correctional Facilities
 - Transfer of Placements
 - Conditional Release
- Violations of Probation or Post-commitment Probation
 - Jurisdiction
 - Custody
 - Hearings
 - Disposition
- Transition to Adulthood in Delinquency Proceedings
- Juvenile Sex Offenders
 - Criteria for classification
 - Evaluations
 - Dispositions
 - Notifications
 - Registration
- Prolific Juvenile Offenders and Juvenile Felony Offenders
- Authority of the Delinquency Court over parents or guardians
 - Costs of representation
 - Jurisdiction
 - Costs of care
- Transfer to adult criminal court
 - Waiver
 - Direct file
 - Discretionary
 - Mandatory
 - Indictment
 - Sentencing powers
 - Presentence investigation
 - Juvenile sanctions
 - Youthful offender
 - Juvenile sanctions in adult court
 - Proceedings upon failure of juvenile sanctions

- Abuse, Abandonment and Neglect
 - Definitions in Dependency proceedings
 - Evidence and Proof
 - Harm
- Protective Investigations of Children
 - Safety Plans
 - Voluntary Service Plans
 - Intensive Crisis Counseling Program
 - Child Welfare Practice Model
- Removing Children from the Home
- Dependency Proceedings
 - Shelter Hearing
 - Arraignment or Advisory Hearing
 - Judicial Reviews
 - Motion Hearings
 - Permanency Hearing
 - Adjudicatory Hearings
 - Disposition in Dependency cases
- Title IV-E Funding Issues
 - State's Obligations
 - Reasonable Efforts
- Placement of Children during Dependency Proceedings
 - Levels of Licensure
 - Sibling Placement
 - Transition Planning
- Child Well Being in Dependency cases
 - Ability to Participate in Normal Childhood Activities
 - Visitation with Persons Important to the Child
 - Master Trust
 - Placement Transition
 - Psychotropic Medication Administration
- Dependency Staffings
- Permanency in Dependency cases
 - Case Plan development and compliance
 - Permanency/Case Plan Goals
 - Conditions for Return
 - Guardianship
 - Adoptions (Intervention and Subsidy)

- Dependency Motion Practice and Discovery
- Services for Adolescents and Young Adults in Dependency Proceedings
 - Transition Planning
 - Independent Living Programs
 - College Support
 - Guardianship and Alternatives for Persons with Disabilities
- Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings
 - Manifest Best Interests
 - Least Restrictive Means

For examination purposes, topics that are not considered to be a part of juvenile law include:

- Family Law
- Probate Guardianship
- Adoption of Non-Child Welfare Involved Children

State vs. Federal Law Emphasis: The test will emphasize Florida law, but practitioners are expected to understand and apply federal statutes and case law.

Examinees will be tested on law that is in effect as of January 1 of the year in which the exam is administered.

Part 1 of the exam will contain 25 multiple choice questions worth 1 point each, and 3 essays worth 25 points each.

Part 2 of the exam will contain 75 multiple choice questions worth 1 point each, and 1 essay worth 25 points.