

Children and the Law

Time: Thursday; 6:00 p.m.—7:40 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 868 459 4175; Passcode: 2XLqKL

Instructor: Anna M. Vick

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Office Hours: upon request

Description: This course explores the rights of children, the legal aspects of the parent-child relationship, the state's ability to regulate the activity of children, child abuse, neglect, children in need of supervision, adoption and termination of parental rights. Although delinquency will be touched upon, criminal procedure is not a major portion of the course.

Course Materials: *Children and the Law, Doctrine, Policy, and Practice*, 7th Edition
Douglas E. Abrams, Susan V. Mangold, Sarah H. Ramsey (West Academic)

Learning Objectives: After completing this course, students will:

- learn substantive law, public policy issues, and practice considerations in such areas as child abuse and neglect, foster care, crimes against children, child labor laws and other protective legislation, and juvenile delinquency;
- learn the importance of cross-disciplinary collaborations with experts in fields such as psychology and medicine;
- be encouraged to use their knowledge of child advocacy to participate in the public dialog throughout their careers;
- be encouraged to represent children on a pro bono basis, and to participate in bar association and other law revision initiatives, even if they specialize in other fields of law.

Structure of Course: The course is designed to expand your knowledge of the laws and policies governing children. Each class will require you to be fully prepared and ready for group discussion. I acknowledge that we will be embarking on an interesting educational journey this semester due to the continued effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. This class will be conducted online in an attempt to keep everyone healthy and safe. I understand that for some of you this is not the ideal way to learn. I encourage you to share with me any difficulties you are having during the course and I will do my best to help make sure you receive any help you need. I ask for your patience as I am as new to online teaching as you may be to online learning. I am confident that as a class we will work together to make the semester successful.

Classroom Participation: All students are expected to vigorously participate in class. You should come prepared, having read the weekly reading assignment and reviewed the chapter problems and/or notes. In order to facilitate discussion more effectively using the Zoom platform, I ask that you divide up into “firms” of 3-4 people. Each Firm will have a name—you can be as creative or basic as you wish. Your assignment for the first week of class will be to turn in the names of the individuals in your firm along with the name you have selected. Beginning in Week 2, each firm will be assigned to lead one or two weeks of class discussion. Your firm will be responsible for discussing any problems or notes in the text. Please note that even though your firm may not be “up” for any given week, you should be prepared to participate in any discussion. Your participation in the class discussion will count toward your final grade.

Practice and Writing Assignments:

Grading: Your final grade for this course will be based upon your participation in class and the final exam. The breakdown of these components is as follows:

Class participation: 5%

Final Exam: 95%

The grades of students who have elected to take this course with S/U grading will be converted by the registrar according to the following scale: 2.1 or greater = Satisfactory; below 2.1 = Unsatisfactory. Only students that earned a satisfactory grade will earn credit for the course.

Attendance Policy: The School of Law [Rules](#) primarily govern students’ attendance requirements. Pursuant to those Rules, the maximum number of absences for this course is set at three (3). The sanction set out in Rule III.5(g)(iii)—a reduction in a student’s final grade of three-tenths (0.3) of a point per absence—is in effect for any student who exceeds the three permitted absences.

Workload Expectations: The American Bar Association (“ABA”) law-school-accreditation standards contain a formula for calculating the amount of work that constitutes one credit hour. According to ABA Standard 310, “a ‘credit hour’ is an amount of work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work per week for fifteen weeks.” This is a 2-credit hour class, meaning that we will spend one 100-minute block of time together each week. The amount of assigned reading and out-of-class preparation should take you a minimum of 4 hours for each class session.

Electronic Devices: Please use responsibly. Don't be a distraction to your fellow classmates.

Plagiarism and Collaboration: You should feel free to collaborate with your classmates when discussing the problems in the text or any handout questions. All other assignments and the final exam shall be completed individually without collaboration.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week One (8/20)

Chapter 1. The Status, Rights, and Obligations of Children

Skim pages 1-20

Read pages 21-114

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Week Two (8/27)

Chapter 2. Defining the Child-Parent Relationship

Skim pages 125-139

Read pages 139-200

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Chapter 3. Representing Children

Skim pages 203-228

Read pages 228-283

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Weeks Three (9/3)

Chapter 4. Abuse and Neglect

Read pages 283-333

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Week Four (9/10)

Chapter 4. Abuse and Neglect

Read pages 333-375

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Week Five (9/17)

Chapter 4. Abuse and Neglect

Read pages 375-433

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Week Six (9/24)

Chapter 5. Foster Care

Read pages 433-478

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Week Seven (10/1)

Chapter 5. Foster Care

Read pages 478-527

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Week Eight (10/8)

Chapter 6. Criminal Abuse and Neglect

Read pages 527-572

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Week Nine (10/15)

Chapter 6. Criminal Abuse and Neglect

Read pages 572-621

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Week Ten (10/22)

Chapter 7. Adoption

Read pages 621-689

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Week Eleven (10/29)

Chapter 10. Regulation of Children's Conduct

Skim pages 861-886

Read pages 887-941

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Week Twelve (11/5)

Chapter 11. Delinquency

Read pages 941-1005

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Week Thirteen (11/12)

Chapter 11. Delinquency

Read pages 1005-1065

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

Week Fourteen (11/19)

Chapter 11. Delinquency

Read pages 1065-1120

Prepare all Problems and Notes & Questions

FINAL EXAM

SIU SCHOOL OF LAW – FALL 2020

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: *We ask that you become familiar with **Emergency Preparedness @ SIU**. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, on the Emergency Preparedness @ SIU website, and through text and email alerts. To register for alerts, visit: <http://emergency.siu.edu/>.*

DISABILITY POLICY. *SIU Carbondale is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. Disability Support Services coordinates the implementation of accommodations. If you think you may be eligible for accommodations but have not yet obtained approval please contact DSS immediately at 618-453-5738 or disabilityservices.siu.edu. You may request accommodations at any time, but timely requests help to insure accommodations are in place when needed. Accommodations and services are determined through an interactive process with students and may involve consideration of specific course design and learning objectives in consultation with faculty. Upon completion of a Disability Accommodation Agreement with DSS, students should bring the agreements for each course to the School of Law Registrar's Office to ensure the School of Law provides the proper classroom and examination accommodations. Accommodation [request](#) and [renewal](#) forms can be found here: <https://law.siu.edu/academics/>.*

SALUKI CARES. *The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: (618) 453-2461, or siucares@siu.edu, <http://salukicare.siu.edu/index.html>. At the School of Law, Assistant Dean Judi Ray is also available to help students access university resources. Her email is judiray@siu.edu, and her phone number is 618-453-3135.*

COVID-19. As a condition of on-campus enrollment, all SIUC students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19, including the requirement that all students wear a mask in campus buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, and studios when others are present, regardless of social distancing. Students are expected to follow physical or social distancing guidelines by keeping at least 6 feet from others, and practicing good hand hygiene. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. SIUC will follow federal, state and county public health recommendations and mandates in all decisions relating to university operation. Students should regularly review the link for the [SIUC COVID-19 response](#)