

Syllabus

CLE Title: Utilizing Grandparents in Relocation Custody Cases: Strategic Approaches for Family Law Practitioners

Instructor: Thomas Cossitt, Esq.

(Full speaker biography to be added; include years of experience, specific casework in relocation, and credentials related to CLE instruction)

Duration: 120 minutes (2 hours)

Format: Video-On-Demand CLE Course

CLE Credit: 2 General CLE Credits (Pending approval)

Course Description:

This CLE provides in-depth guidance on strategically utilizing grandparents in child relocation custody cases. Focusing exclusively on grandparents as non-litigant witnesses, attorneys will learn how grandparents can support or oppose relocation effectively through their testimony, observations, and documented future involvement. Ethical considerations and best practices in witness preparation are covered extensively, ensuring attorneys leverage grandparents' contributions while maintaining professional integrity.

Target Audience:

- Family law attorneys
 - Attorneys handling relocation custody disputes
 - Legal professionals interested in strategic witness preparation
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Learning Objectives:

By the end of this CLE, participants will be able to:

1. Strategically involve grandparents in supporting or opposing relocation cases.
 2. Prepare grandparents effectively for direct and cross-examination.
 3. Address ethical issues involving grandparents as witnesses.
 4. Utilize practical tools (questionnaires, prep guides, sample letters) effectively.
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Detailed Agenda:

I. Introduction and Overview (10 mins)

- Clarifying the supportive role of grandparents
- Defining scope and ethical boundaries

II. Grandparents Supporting Relocation (30 mins)

- Leveraging grandparents' testimony about current involvement and future support plans
- Practical documentation strategies
- Example scenarios and best practices for attorneys
- Ethical considerations when grandparents assist in the relocation request

III. Grandparents Opposing Relocation (30 mins)

- Using grandparents' detailed observations to demonstrate stability and community ties
- Effective testimony techniques for grandparents opposing relocation
- Best practices for documentation and presentation
- Ethical considerations and avoiding pitfalls

IV. Ethical and Best Practice Considerations (15 mins)

- Avoiding conflicts of interest and privilege waivers
- Professional responsibility and courtroom decorum
- Ethical rules regarding witness coaching and expense reimbursement

V. Preparing Grandparents for Direct and Cross-Examination (20 mins)

- Coaching grandparents for clear, credible testimony
- Effective techniques for managing direct examination
- Strategies for handling aggressive cross-examination
- Practical witness preparation tools and resources

VI. Wrap-Up, Bonus Materials, and Final Guidance (15 mins)

- Recap of key strategic points
- Overview of bonus resources (questionnaires, prep guides, sample letters)
- Tips for maximizing the on-demand CLE format

Included Bonus Materials:

- Grandparent Involvement Questionnaire Template
- Witness Preparation Checklist (Grandparent Edition)

- Sample Support Letter from Grandparent (Relocation Support)
 - Sample Opposition Letter from Grandparent (Relocation Opposition)
 - Direct and Cross Examination Prep Guide
 - Ethical Reference Sheet for Attorneys
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Recommendations for Improvement:

1. **Add Demonstration Videos of Mock Grandparent Testimony:** To visually illustrate effective versus ineffective testimony.
 2. **Integrate Interactive Case Studies or Scenario Exercises:** Enhancing engagement and practical application.
 3. **Continuous Feedback and Updates:** Regularly update materials based on participant feedback and evolving legal practices.
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This structured CLE effectively provides practical, ethical, and strategic insights into utilizing grandparents as supportive witnesses in relocation custody cases, ensuring immediate applicability and enhanced practitioner skills.