

REASONABLE EFFORTS:

Overview of the Law and Fiscal Implications

**OCTOBER 20, 2022
12 - 1 PM**



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The concept of reasonable efforts is a fundamental component in every Child in Need of Care (CINC) case. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has the burden of demonstrating reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need for removal and to finalize the permanent plan for the child if the child is removed. The judge is required to make written and individualized reasonable efforts findings at the Continued Custody, Disposition, and Permanency Hearings.



AGENDA & SCHEDULE

12:00 - 12:25pm	Reasonable Efforts <i>Law, Requirements, Finding, and Examples</i>
12:25 - 12:45pm	Title IV-E Reimbursement <i>Nuts and Bolts</i>
12:45 - 1:00pm	Questions and Answers and Closing

At this virtual CLE/CEU, the presenters will address important questions often raised by stakeholders:

- What is the basis for making reasonable efforts?
- What are some examples of reasonable efforts to prevent removal and to finalize the permanent plan?
- What does reasonable efforts mean for the children and families being served?
- Under what circumstances does DCFS risk losing Title IV-E reimbursement if reasonable efforts are not made?
- What happens to Title IV-E reimbursement when a “no reasonable efforts” finding is made?

Objectives

- Learn the law and reasonable efforts findings that must be made at Child in Need of Care Hearings.
- Gain familiarity with types of reasonable efforts to be made by the Department of Children and Family Services.
- Understand the specific relationship between Title IV-E reimbursement and reasonable efforts findings at the different junctures of the case.

SPEAKERS



Mark Harris, JD | *Executive Director, Pelican Center for Children and Families*

Mark Harris is the Executive Director of the Pelican Center for Children and Families. He formerly served the Louisiana Supreme Court as the Project Coordinator for the Louisiana Court Improvement Program for 15 years and has been formally recognized by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services for outstanding efforts in promoting the safety, permanency and well being of Louisiana's at-risk children.



Cassandra Johnson, RSW | *Federal Programs and Grants, Child Welfare Manager, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services*

Cassandra Johnson is a manager with the Department of Children and Family Services, with over 20 years of experience in child welfare. She has worked in both the Child Protective Services (CPS) and Foster Care programs within the agency, as well as a Child Support Specialist and Consultant in the Federal Programs division at State Office for 7 years. She has managed the Title IVE program for over 3 years.



Samantha M. Morrison | *Peer and Equity Specialist, Pelican Center for Children and Families*

Samantha M. Morrison is the Peer and Equity Specialist for the Pelican Center's Court Improvement Program in which she has been working for the past six months in this position. Ms. Morrison is a certified Peer Support Specialist (with lived experience) and a previous background as a Peer Support Coordinator with East Baton Rouge Parish Family Preservation Court under Judge Adam Haney. Faced with substance abuse challenges, her 3 daughters were removed from her home and placed in the care of her parents until she decided to change her life. Ms. Morrison has been clean and sober for almost 4 years. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, spending time with her children, helping people and reading. She is currently working on her Bachelor's Degree in Education with aspirations to gain her Doctorate Degree in History and attend Law School.