

## **Helpful Tips for Social Workers and Advocates Practicing in an Interdisciplinary Collaboration with Attorneys**

Familiarize yourself with the applicable terminology, statutes, and regulations.

Identify and clarify the roles of other players in the legal process with whom you and your client will be interacting. (Ex: Judge/ Referee, Law Guardian, Forensic Evaluator, Supervised Visitation Supervisor, Law Guardian, etc.)

Learn as much as possible about the presenting legal issues. For instance, what is being decided and what available options were provided to your client.

Be aware of your personal assumptions, experiences, values and biases. For instance, how could these things impact your work with your client.

Develop your ability to present, orally and in writing, your assessment, findings, and recommendations in an organized, concise and persuasive manner.

Advocate for yourself. Make sure the social work/ advocate perspective is valued in the collaboration.

Create opportunities to participate in “cross discipline trainings”.

And always practice within the bounds of your expertise. Do not overreach your knowledge and training.