CHILDREN AND THE LAW
SYLLABUS
Spring Semester 2009

Required Texts

2. R. Spector, Children and the Law Supplementary Materials (available as a link from my web page).

Recommended Text


We will cover the following material in the following order. Those topics that are designated as a unit must be read in their entirety before classroom discussion. The indicated statutory material, located in the appendix, must be read with each assignment.

The standing assignment is 30 pages from where we ended the previous class. If the next 30 pages places you in the middle of a unit that must be read as a whole, finish the unit. I will tell you if I anticipate covering more than 30 pages in a class period.

1. Who Decides: An Introduction to the Child-Family-State Relationship, Supplementary Materials pp. 1-31
4. Original Jurisdiction Under the UCCJA and the UCCJEA; CB pp. 467-480. 43 O.S. §§551-101 to 551-210; 28 U.S.C. §1738A (Note: The UCCJEA is very technical and will require several readings before class).
6. Interstate Child Custody Jurisdiction in Non-Traditional Families; CB 484-497


11. Modification of Custody: Changed Circumstances, CB pp. 568-574. 43 O.S. §112.


13. Interference With the Non-Custodial Parent, CB pp. 579-583, 43 O.S.§112(D).


15. Home Schooling, Relocation and the Harm Requirement, CB pp. 592-609. 43 O.S. §112.3.


17. Visitation, CB pp. 614-628. 43 O.S. §110.1a, 111.1, 111.1A.

18. Problems of Enforcement, CB pp. 629-638. 43 O.S. §111.2


20. Third Party Visitation Problems, CB pp. 660-799. 10 O.S. §§5, 5A; 43 O.S. 111.3. (Read as a Unit).


24 Parentage in Non-Traditional Families, CB 758-780


27. If time permits we may discuss other topics such as child abuse, child neglect and the juvenile court system.
ATTENDANCE AND PREPARATION

All students must attend class and be prepared. Attendance and preparation are as important in law school as in the practice of law. Just as in practice, you are allowed a certain amount of leeway after which sanctions will be applied. You may have three absences or instances of being unprepared for whatever reason you wish. It is not necessary to inform me of your absence or of your being unprepared. When the combination of absences and instances of being unprepared exceeds three you will be sanctioned one grade deduction for each additional absence or instance of being unprepared. Should you accumulate more than ten instances, you will be dropped from the course. Students who have severe personal or family problems (e.g. child birth, funeral, death of relatives, major illnesses) must see me. Outside employment and employment search is never an excuse. Students anticipating absences for moot court, student conferences, etc. should plan to include those in the three that maybe taken for whatever reason.

You are expected to arrive for class on time just as you are expected to arrive for court and clients on time. I normally do not count tardiness as an absence. Frequent tardiness is, however, as inexcusable in class as it is in court. I do reserve the right to count tardiness as an absence and to tell chronically tardy students that they have a special responsibility to arrive on time.

EXAMINATION

There will be a three hour open-book examination. You may bring to the examination the current edition of the casebook, your notes, and any other material that your created or helped create. If technologically possible, you may have these materials on your computer and use your computer to access the material. The examination will be entirely essay, although it may include some short answer questions. There will be no multiple-choice questions. All questions will be set in Oklahoma and governed by Oklahoma law. I will discuss it on the last day of class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

"The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require accommodations in this course are requested to speak with the administration as early in the semester as possible. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations in this course. The Office of Disability Services is located in Goddard Health Center, Suite 166, phone 405/325-3852 or TDD only 405/325-4173."