

Saturday, January 24, 2026

8:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Children's Law Committee

3.0 MCLE Credit Hours

Supreme Court Commission on CLE Course #: 260231

Room Location: 105-106

Do You Want to Know What's New(s)?

The Senior Counsel for Child Welfare at SCDSS, Taron Davis, will kick off the seminar describing some of the initiatives and new programs launched under the leadership of the new DSS Director Tony Catone. The new Director of the Department of Children's Advocacy will introduce herself and provide an overview of some advocacy initiatives and goals and then the Department's General Counsel, Tena Hardee, will provide an update on the System Improvement Division and its expansion and improvements since its inception. Representative Jason Elliott will provide an update on children's law issues that will be discussed in this coming legislative session, as well as the upcoming year. Finally, Cody Lidge who is the Courts Program Director at the Children's Law Center, will provide an overview of the Court Improvement Program Quality Legal Representation Project which includes a pilot project for direct representation for youth in abuse and neglect cases. He will also provide some relevant data that has been collected by the Court Improvement Program through the Court Liaisons.

Agenda

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| 8:30 – 8:35 a.m. | Introduction

Tena Hardee
<i>S.C. Department of Children's Advocacy</i>
<i>Columbia, SC</i> |
| 8:35 – 9:15 a.m. | SCDSS Initiatives & New Programs

Taron Davis
<i>S.C. Department of Social Services</i>
<i>Columbia, SC</i> |
| 9:15 – 10 a.m. | Department of Children's Advocacy Update: System Improvement

Margaret Bodman
<i>S.C. Department of Children's Advocacy</i>
<i>Columbia, SC</i>

Tena Hardee
<i>S.C. Department of Children's Advocacy</i>
<i>Columbia, SC</i> |
| 10 – 10:15 a.m. | Break |
| 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. | Legislative Update |

Senator Jason T. Elliott
Jason Elliott, Attorney at Law, LLC
Greenville, SC

10:45 – 11: 45 a.m. **Court Improvement Program Quality Legal Representation Project-
Direct Representation for Children**

Cody Lidge, MPA
Children's Law Center
Columbia, SC

Course Planner/Moderator: Tena Hardee
S.C. Department of Children's Advocacy
Columbia, SC