

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: Law & Practice in Human Services

COURSE NUMBER: PSY 323 / SOC 323 / LES 323

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines how the law impacts the delivery of human services in both direct ways through the civil and criminal court system and indirectly through the laws and regulations that define the rules, responsibilities, and entitlements of clients receiving support services. Topics will include child welfare, guardianships, involuntary commitments, competence, and civil rights. Special attention will also be given to the varying ethical duties and professional values within the human services and legal professions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

GOAL A: Demonstrate an understanding of the legal needs of low-income human services clients

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- A-1 List common legal needs of low-income clients
- A-2 List common barriers to access and redress of rights among low-income clients
- A-3 Analyze a case study and identify potential legal needs

GOAL B: Demonstrate an understanding of the various roles that human services professionals can play in collaborating with legal professionals and the ethical constraints of both professions

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- B-1 Identify the roles a human services professional may play in addressing a client's legal needs
- B-2 List the requirements for becoming a licensed social worker in the state of Delaware
- B-3 Identify other employment opportunities within the human services industry
- B-4 Identify the Code of Ethics applicable to human services professionals
- B-5 Identify the Code of Ethics applicable to legal professionals and how it may impact nonlegal professionals

GOAL C: Demonstrate an understanding of the legal processes in civil and criminal proceedings

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- C-1 Identify the parties involved in a civil/criminal proceedings and their respective responsibilities
- C-2 Identify mandatory reporting requirements in Delaware
- C-3 Describe the Delaware statutory process for handling child abuse and neglect allegations
- C-4 Distinguish quasi-criminal processes for juveniles from adult criminal proceedings

GOAL D: Demonstrate an understanding of the knowledge and skills needed to effectively participate in a legal proceeding

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- D-1 Identify the two common types of witnesses in a trial
- D-2 Define basic legal terms used in litigation

- D-3 List the types of evidence typically admissible at trial and identify an example of each

GOAL E: Demonstrate an understanding of the legal standard in specific civil proceedings

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- E-1 Identify the legal standard for guardianship proceedings in Delaware
- E-2 Identify the legal standard in a protection from abuse (PFA) proceedings and restraining orders
- E-3 Identify the legal standard for involuntary commitment in Delaware
- E-4 Identify the federal and state legislation
- E-5 Describe the varying standards of “competence” required to marry, contract, sign a will, vote, obtain a driver’s license, or stand trial

GOAL F: Demonstrate an understanding of the legal standard in criminal proceedings

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- F-1 Identify the common defenses in criminal proceedings
- F-2 Describe the application of “diminished capacity” in a criminal proceeding
- F-3 Describe the process for handling juvenile offenses in Delaware