

Accredited Training for Lawyers with Clients Leaving Abusive Relationships

Family law cases involving family violence are complicated, time-consuming and can be dangerous for both clients and lawyers. Effective lawyering is essential to ensure an outcome that allows the client and the children to move on to lives free from abuse.

To support lawyers' work in this area, Luke's Place offers an online training, "Effective Lawyering with Clients Leaving Abusive Relationships". Designed for family law lawyers in Ontario, the course is CPD accredited for 1 hour 20 minutes Professionalism Hours and up to 1 hour 10 minutes Substantive Hours.

Challenges and Strategies

"Effective Lawyering" grapples with issues commonly encountered in family law cases involving partner abuse, including:

- A client who may present as confused, disorganized, disengaged and even hostile
- Challenges in gathering information from a client who is unaware of the family's financial situation, reluctant to disclose abuse and fearful of the opposing party
- Delays by the opposing party, including failing to file court documents, seeking repeated adjournments, lodging complaints against court personnel, bringing repeated frivolous and vexatious motions
- Harassment of you and your staff by the opposing party

Learn strategies for:

- Family violence screening
- Assessing risk to the client, yourself and your staff
- Managing legal bullying
- Gathering and presenting evidence of abuse
- Recognizing and managing vicarious trauma



This is a self-directed online course, which may be completed on your own schedule, in one or multiple sittings. It consists of narrated slide presentations and short quizzes. A high speed internet connection is recommended for optimal viewing. The Luke's Place publication, "Best Practices Manual for Lawyers with Clients Leaving Abusive Relationships" and a family violence screening tool, is included in the cost of the course.

Luke's Place is a unique centre devoted to improving the safety and experience of abused women and their children as they proceed through the family law process. Since 2015, Luke's Place has trained over 2,500 Legal Aid Ontario lawyers and staff on working more effectively with clients who have been subjected to intimate partner violence. We also operate a pro bono legal advice clinic in Durham Region and a Virtual Legal Clinic for rural and remote abuse survivors.

Course fee: \$125. To register online, visit LukesPlace.ca or contact projectco@lukesplace.ca.