

Interviewing the Juvenile Client and Other People Important to Your Client's Case:

Whatchu Talkin' 'Bout, Willis?

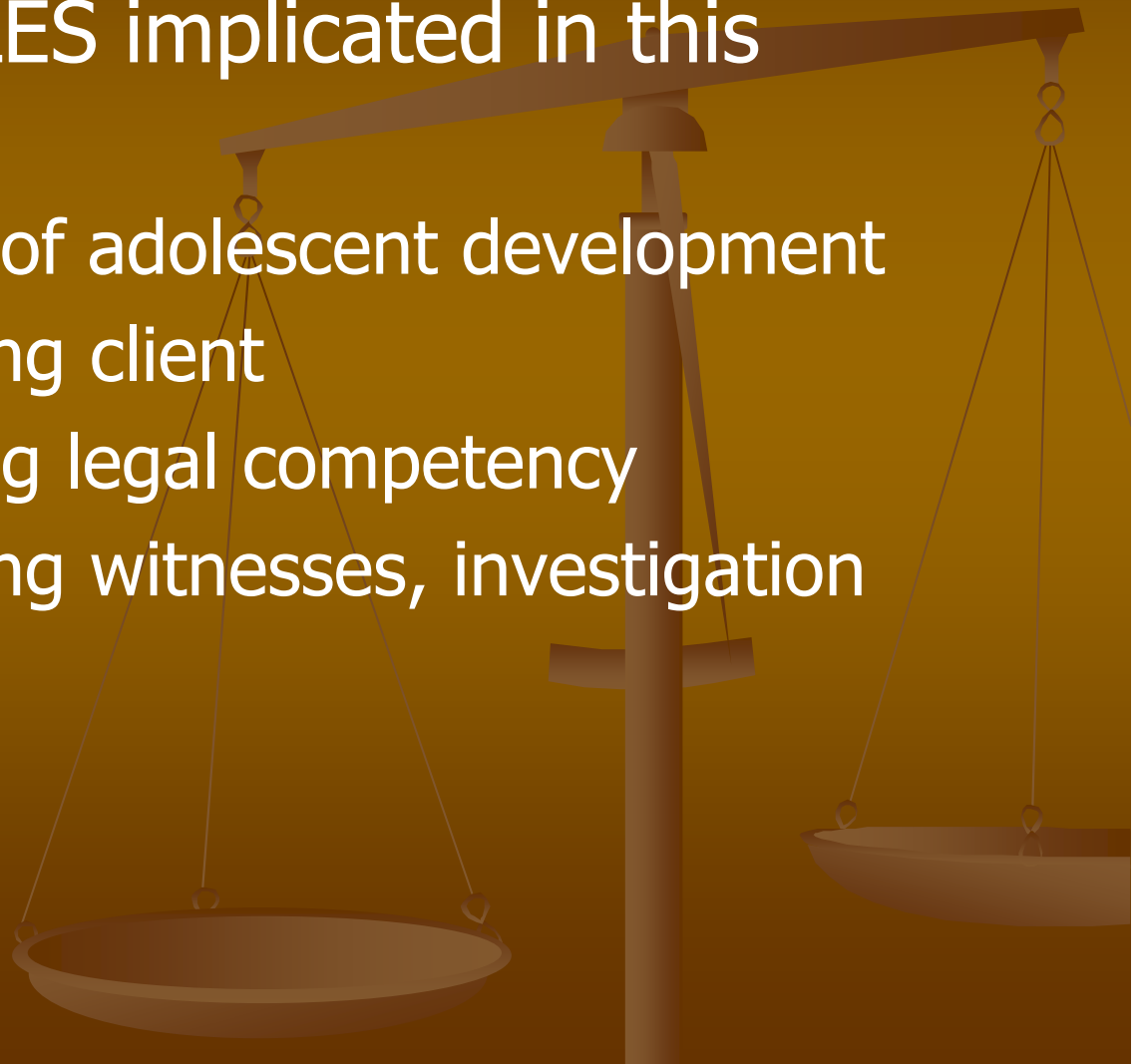
Juvenile Certification Training
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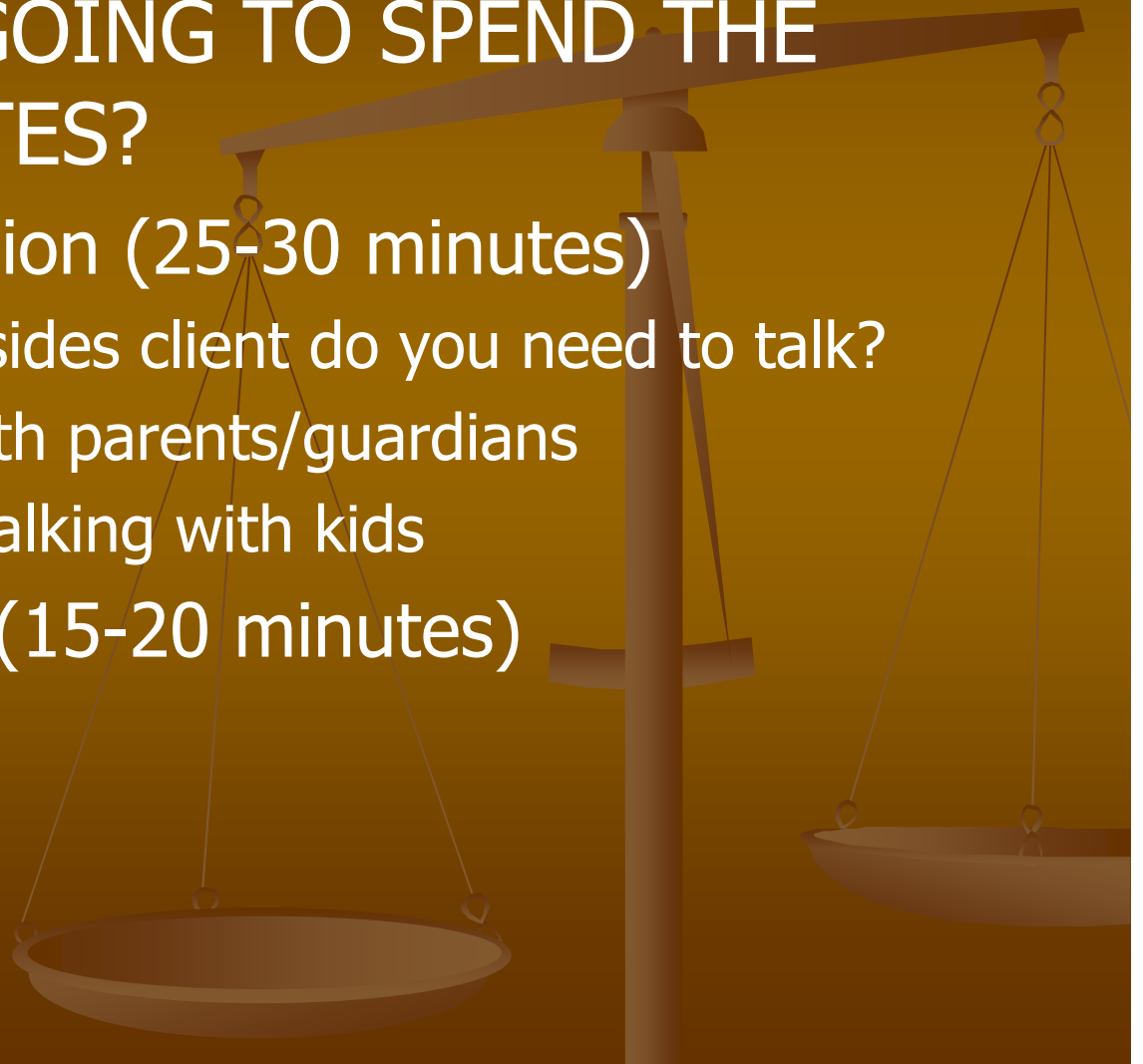
Whatchu Talkin' 'Bout, Willis?

- CORE PRINCIPLES implicated in this section:
 - #1 – principles of adolescent development
 - #3 – interviewing client
 - #5 – considering legal competency
 - #6 – interviewing witnesses, investigation



Whatchu Talkin' 'Bout, Willis?

- HOW ARE WE GOING TO SPEND THE NEXT 45 MINUTES?
 - Lecture/Discussion (25-30 minutes)
 - With whom besides client do you need to talk?
 - How to deal with parents/guardians
 - Strategies for talking with kids
 - Demonstration (15-20 minutes)



Whatchu Talkin' 'Bout, Willis?

■ WHO ELSE DO YOU NEED TO TALK TO?

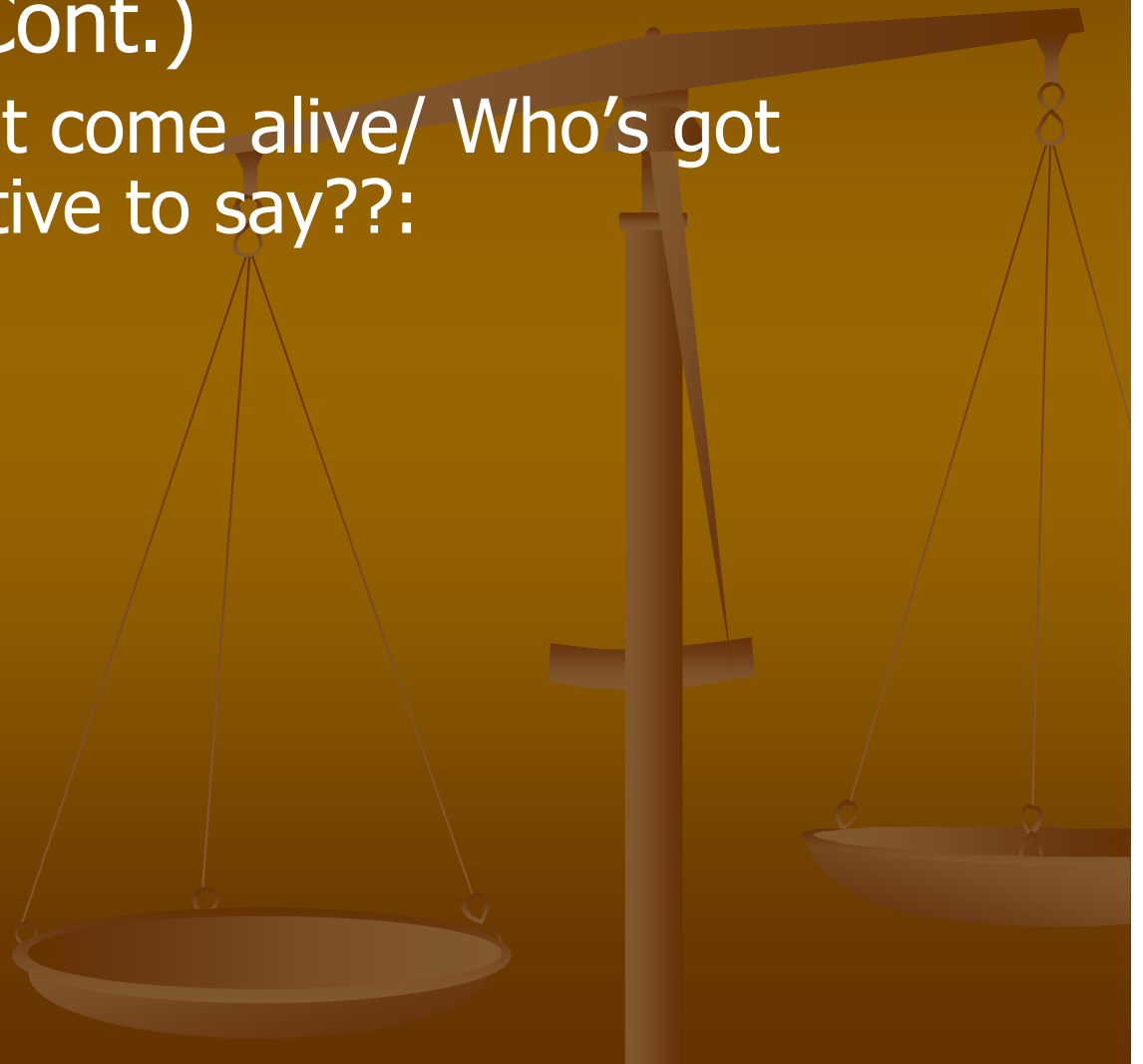
■ Investigate!

- Facts of the case
- Issues related to competency/responsibility
 - Therapists/teachers/psychiatrists
 - Parents (more on that later)



Whatchu Talkin' 'Bout, Willis?

- WHO ELSE ... (Cont.)
 - Make your client come alive/ Who's got something positive to say??:
 - Teachers
 - Counselors
 - Employers
 - Coaches
 - Pastors
 - Mentors
 - Big Brothers



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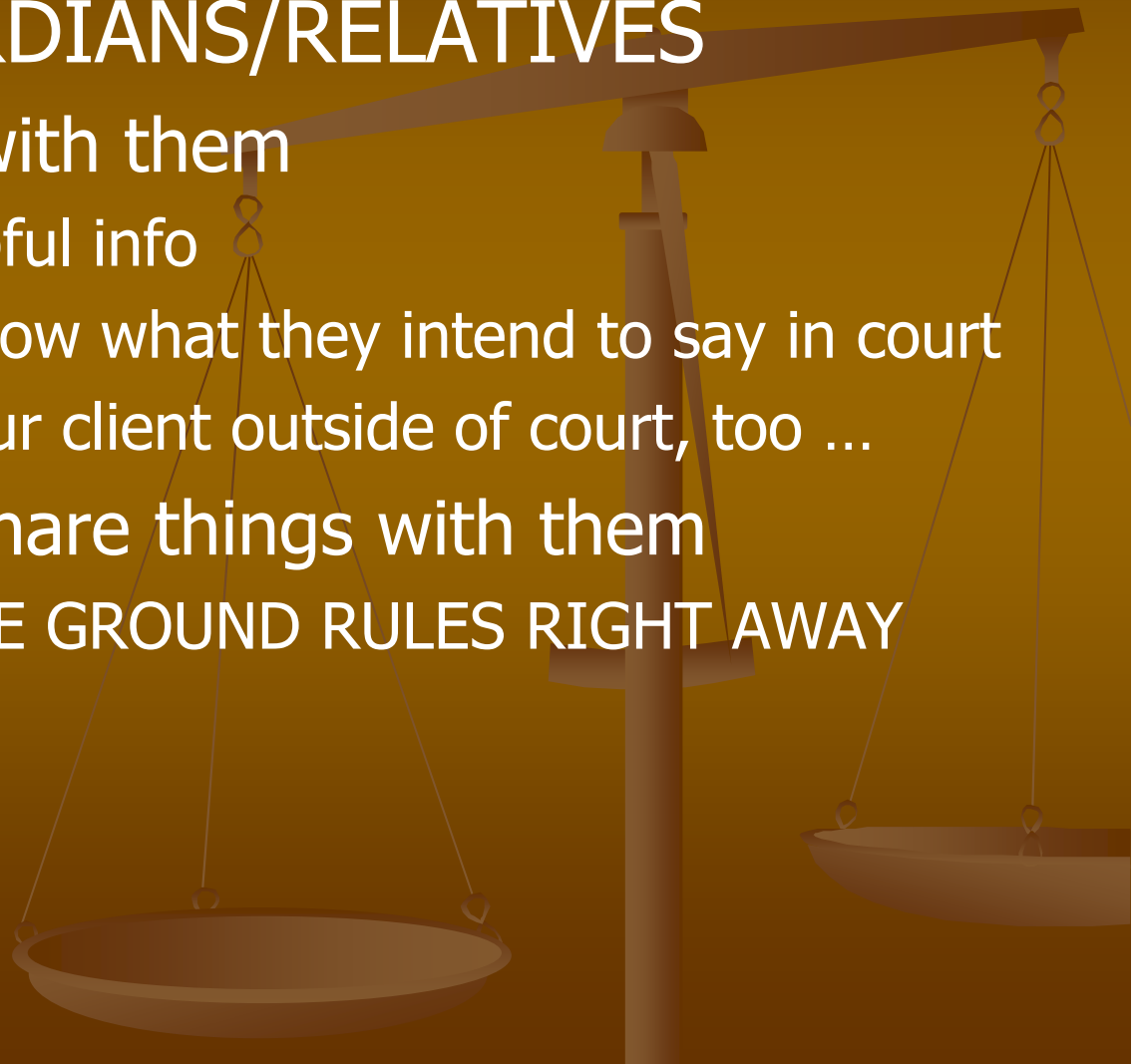
■ PARENTS/GUARDIANS/RELATIVES

■ You must talk with them

- They have helpful info
- You want to know what they intend to say in court
- Likely helps your client outside of court, too ...

■ You must not share things with them

- ESTABLISH THE GROUND RULES RIGHT AWAY



Whatchu Talkin' 'Bout, Willis?

- OUR CLIENTS – Who are they?
 - “Normal” adolescent development – what are they thinking??
 - Communication style
 - Thoughts about self
 - Now, add in:
 - Developmental/cognitive disabilities
 - Substance Abuse issues
 - Trauma histories



Whatchu Talkin' 'Bout, Willis?

- So, how do you get this kid to talk???
- Talk "with" them, not "to" them
- Let them guide the conversation for big stretches
 - Pay attention to what's "hot"
 - Use what you have learned from other clients
- Active listening
- BE REAL!!
- Body language



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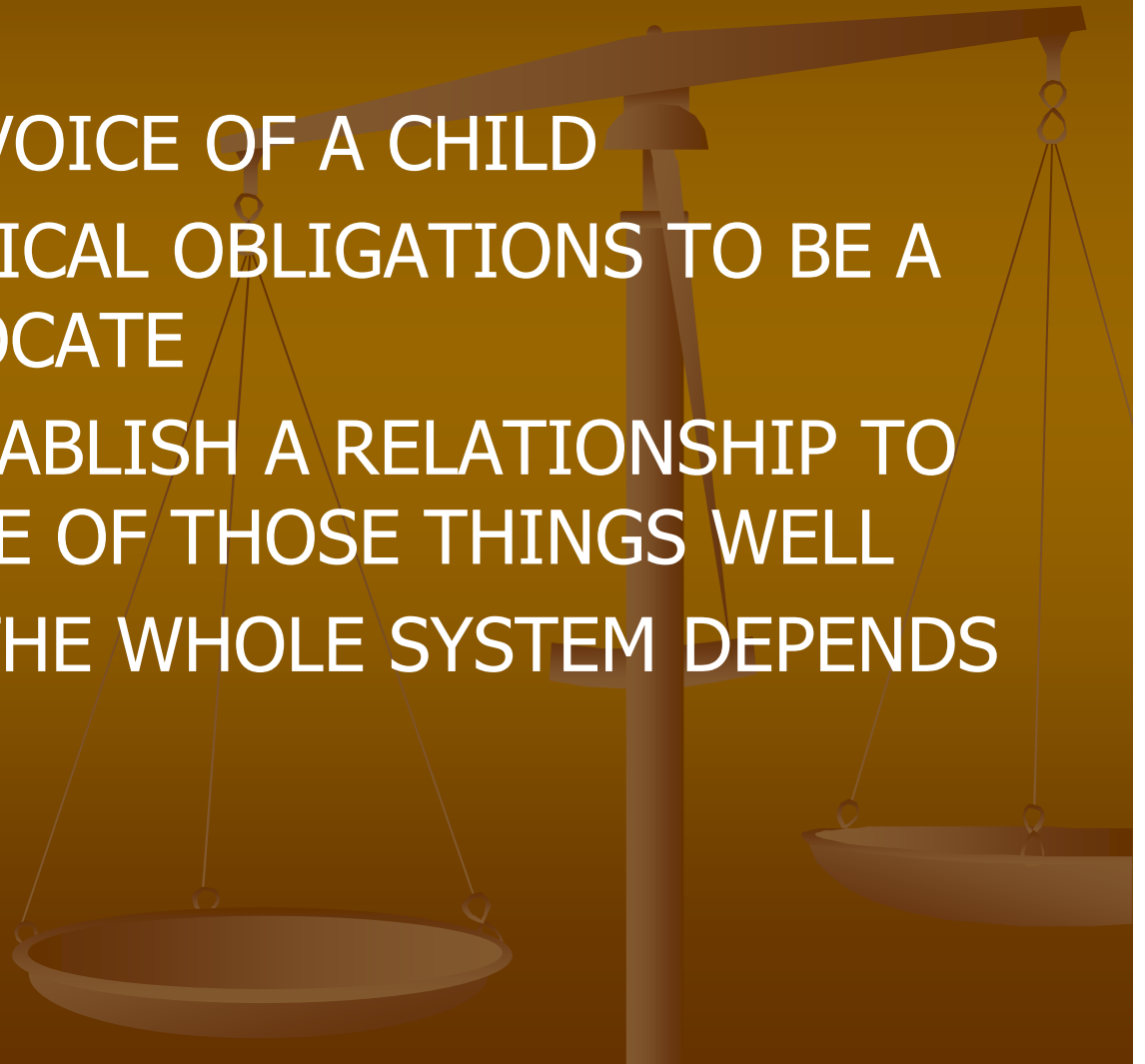
- What NOT to do:
 - Use legal jargon
 - Talk with them like your adult clients
 - Make empty promises or promises about things which you cannot control
 - Be judgmental/accusatory
 - Be less than honest
 - Become the decision-maker



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■ SUMMARY:

- YOU ARE THE VOICE OF A CHILD
- YOU HAVE ETHICAL OBLIGATIONS TO BE A ZEALOUS ADVOCATE
- YOU MUST ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP TO DO EITHER ONE OF THOSE THINGS WELL
- ULTIMATELY, THE WHOLE SYSTEM DEPENDS ON IT ...



Whatchu Talkin' 'Bout, Willis?

- DEMONSTRATION TIME

