

TBA Adoption Law Forum 2024

Tennessee Bankers Association Barrett Training Center
September 9, 2024



Program Producer: Julia Spannaus, Chair

Total Credits: 4 General, 1 Dual

2024 was another banner year for adoption legislation in Tennessee. TBA's Adoption Law Section presents this year's annual forum with sessions covering legislative updates (including the section's own sponsored bills), as well as extra time for case law updates. Additional topics include disruptions and secondary placements, as well as an hour on how adoption proceedings interact with juvenile court.

9:30am - 10:00am CT **Registration**

10:00am - 12:00pm **Case Law Updates**

This session is designed to provide an overview of recent Tennessee case law, focusing primarily on lessons and trends to be found in termination of parental rights appeals.

Doug Dimond, Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Amy McLaughlin, Tennessee Department of Children's Services

12:00pm - 12:45pm **Lunch (Provided)**

12:45pm - 1:45pm **Legislative Update 2024**

This session is designed to provide an overview of recent Tennessee statutory changes, focusing primarily on terminations and the new birth certificate code.

Meredith Brasfield, Weaver & Craig, P.C.

1:45pm - 2:00pm **Break**

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Disruptions & Secondary Placements

What do you do when clients come to you and do not want to retain custody of their adoptive child? This section will walk you through some of those considerations in two different case scenarios, which adoption practitioners generally call either a disrupted adoption and a secondary placement. A disruption is any situation where a pending adoption cannot be finalized, but the term has come to mean any adoptive placement where the child cannot remain in the adoptive home. A secondary placement generally occurs after the adoption is finalized; the adoptive parents as the legal parents make an adoption plan, i.e. secondary placement, for the child. This session will discuss the legal process for each, as well as the financial and emotional considerations.

Lisa Collins, Lisa L. Collins, Esq.

Catrina Hunt, Permanency Team Leader, Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Shay Jones, Non-Custodial Prevention Services Specialist, Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Denise McFarland, Program Coordinator – Adoption & Guardianship Subsidies, Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Jennifer Williams, Adopt4Kids

3:00pm – 4:00pm

The Interplay Between Adoptions and Juvenile Court

It is well established that an Adoption/TPR filing will remove jurisdiction from Juvenile Court to make custodial determinations. The mechanics of what happens next are not as clear, especially with DCS, intervening Petitioners, and existing visitation orders. This panel explores the many paths a case can take when adoptions are filed on cases with existing, active custody litigation. Speakers will present from the perspective of Juvenile Court practitioners, DCS and adoption practitioners.

Julia Spannaus, Law Office of Julia Spannaus

Stephen Marsh, Tennessee Department of Children's Services