

TBA Adoption Law Forum 2026

Tennessee Bar Association Training Center

September 11, 2026

Total Credits: 4 General, 1 Dual



8:30am – 9:00am CT

Registration

9:00am – 10:30am

Case Law Review

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.

Nicole Fisher, Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Sammi Maifair, Tennessee Department of Children's Services

10:30am – 11:00am

Post Adoption Contact Agreements in Tennessee: A Refresher

This session will cover both the necessary elements of creating a binding post adoption contact agreement in Tennessee, as well as a retrospective on the use of those agreements since first authorized by the Tennessee legislature in 2019.

Mike Jennings, Samples Jennings

11:00am – 11:15am

Break

11:15am – 12:15pm

Harmony Family Center: Who We Are & What We Do

Harmony Family Center provides some of the most comprehensive foster care, adoption, and community services in Tennessee. Representatives will discuss the available subsidies for those pursuing adoption, their qualifications, and how Harmony can assist in the adoption journey. There will be time allocated for a Q&A, so bring your questions!

Sara Fischer, Harmony Family Center

Elizabeth Minatra, Harmony Family Center

Holly Smith, Harmony Family Center

12:15pm – 1:00pm

Lunch (Provided)

1:00pm – 2:00pm

2026 Legislative Update & Foster Parent Advocacy

This split session will first provide an overview of the legislative changes in 2026 in termination and adoption law, and then focus on advocacy strategies when representing foster parents in contested litigation.

Meredith Brasfield, Weaver & Craig

Kevin Weaver, Weaver & Craig

2:00pm – 2:15pm

Break

2:15pm – 3:15pm

DUAL

Hot Topics in Adoption Law

This session will cover views from the trial bench on issues that arise in termination and adoption cases, including thoughts on final orders, pro se litigants and AI.

Judge Sharon Massey Grimes, Montgomery County Juvenile & General Sessions Court

Judge Katy Olita, 19th Circuit Court