

# Disposition Hearing

*Developed and presented by Austine M. Long*

*National Drug Court Institute (NDCI)*

© NDCI, December 15, 2008

The following presentation may not be copied in whole or in part without the written permission of the author or the National Drug Court Institute. Written permission will generally be given without cost, upon request.

# Disposition Hearing

**What is it?**

- **Informal Process**
- **Rules of Evidence**

# **Court Determines:**

## **Plan of care for the children**

- **Where do they live?**
- **What are their needs?**

**What does social services have to do to improve the situation?**

**What do parents have to do to improve the situation?**

What is the focus?

“Best Interest of the Child”

# Disposition Outcomes

- Placement of children
- Visitation
- Psychological testing & counseling
- Parenting classes

# Disposition Outcomes

Continued

- **Substance abuse treatment**
- **Drug testing**
- **Attend children's appointments**
- **Child support**

# Theory

**Brainstorm:**

**Facts (Good & Bad)**

**Examine client's position**

# Advancing Your Theory

**ISSUE:** What information will support your theory?

**ISSUE:** Where will that information come from?

# Consider Everything!

- Witnesses
  - ▶ Employer/co-workers
  - ▶ Friends
  - ▶ Child care providers
  - ▶ Neighbors
  - ▶ Relatives

# Consider Everything!

- Reports

- ▶ Employer

- ▶ Parenting Program

- ▶ Drug Tests

# Challenge Petitioner's Evidence

## Witnesses

Who?

Why?

## Reports

Employer

Parenting Class

Drug Tests

**ALWAYS**

**Be an Advocate for your client  
In the court room**

**AND**

**☺ Outside of the court room**