

**COURSE TITLE: COURT SKILLS FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES (2)**  
*Second of two linked courses*

**Trainer:**

**Gillian Geddes** is a barrister of over 11-years' call, who has worked both in independent practice and as an in-house lawyer for two local authorities. As a practitioner in public and private family work, she has appeared at both higher and lower levels of Court. From October 2000 – September 2003, she was also instructed by the Treasury Solicitor's office to train caseworkers in the Immigration Service and the Immigration Casework Directorate in applied Human Rights law.

**Aims and Objectives:**

To raise awareness of and to familiarise participants with:

- the applicable components of Court Skills
- an understanding of why Court Skills are necessary in social work
- "Best Prep" guidelines
- attending and giving oral evidence in Court

Participants should at the end of the two days' training be able to:

- Describe the different stages of the revised Public Law Outline process
- Identify the impact of the PLO on their own court work practice
- Understand how best to prepare their social work documents for Court
- Understand how to instruct Experts when in the PLO process
- Illustrate how to work productively with Children's Guardians and parents during Court proceedings
- Prepare effectively for and after Court hearings
- Give effective oral evidence at Court

**Duration of course:**

Court Skills (2) is the second of two linked one day courses. Both are whole day courses, starting at 0930 and going through to 1600 (with breaks).

# drive network

quality health and social care training

**Numbers:**

Between 12 and 20 participants

**Target Audience:**

The course is designed specifically for social workers in Children's Services undertaking statutory child care work. The course will provide a thorough grounding for those preparing to undertake work in the Court arena, or for more experienced practitioners the chance to further develop their skills.

**Teaching Method:**

The course is designed in seminar format on both days. to enable maximum interaction between the trainer and the participants. There are comprehensive Powerpoint presentations, combined with hard copy course material. There is extensive use of case material on Day Two of the training, and opportunities for 'hands-on' application of the teaching, together with feedback from the trainer.

**Course Synopsis:**

- Applying the skills learned in Day One of the course to a practical case
- Working to a case summary, considering with the trainer the challenges this particular family faces and the evidence which will be necessary for a forthcoming child protection hearing
- Working on the preparation of documents for the hearing
- Just before a hearing: what and how to revise
- When at Court: what to do, and what to know
- Delegates then take part in a "mock" hearing, having the chance to experience being in the witness box and giving oral evidence, and afterwards receiving individual feedback
- Looking at a well-planned "removal"