

**MENDOCINO COUNTY GOVERNMENT
CLASS SPECIFICATION**

CLASS TITLE: CHILD SUPPORT ATTORNEY IV
DEPARTMENT: CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES
REPORTS TO: CHIEF CHILD SUPPORT ATTORNEY
CIVIL SERVICE: YES

CLASS CODE: S582
FLSA STATUS: E
DATE: 11/07
BARGAINING UNIT: 715 MCPAA

JOB SUMMARY:

Under limited supervision, the Child Support Attorney IV performs a variety of professional legal work in connection with child support civil and criminal cases; provides legal advice and assistance in child support issues to Department staff; interfaces with members of the public, including parties and private attorneys, in addressing questions and concerns regarding the legal aspects of child support cases being handled by the department; may act as the attorney of record in all legal actions and proceedings filed on behalf of the Department with the courts and administrative law agencies.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

This is the highest level, non-supervisory class in the Child Support Attorney series. Positions in this class are distinguished from the Child Support Attorney III in that positions in this class are regularly assigned the most complex child law and child support cases for litigation. Incumbents also perform legal research on complex child law and child support issues and advise on establishing departmental procedures for prosecuting such cases. Positions in this class perform as lead attorneys on cases requiring more than one attorney. The position is distinguished from the Chief Child Support Attorney in that the incumbent in the higher class exercises full supervision over the Child Support Attorney series, legal support staff and other staff.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED:

May act as a lead worker over other attorneys in the investigation, research, and preparation of the more complex cases and train other staff members.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES: (Duties may include but are not limited to the following)

- Investigate, research, and prepare complex child support cases for litigation or prosecution.
- Meet with members of the public, private attorneys and representatives from other agencies regarding issues and questions related to cases being handled by the Department.
- Litigate or prosecute cases in all courts of the county.
- Negotiate with attorneys regarding the disposition of civil matters and/or modification of charges in specific cases.
- Assist other attorneys in the investigation, research, and preparation of the more complex cases.
- Advise Department staff on questions of law and procedure in particular cases.
- Performs legal research on complex child law and child support issues and advises on establishing departmental procedures for prosecuting such cases.
- Act as lead attorney on cases requiring more than one attorney.
- Assist in preparing filings and prosecuting cases before Appellate Courts.
- Give presentations to law enforcement agencies and public groups on child support legal issues and processes.
- Provide training to less experienced attorneys on departmental procedures, changes in law, and regulations and developments in child support litigation.
- Represent the Department in administrative hearings held pursuant to complaints filed by parties whose cases are being handled by the Department.
- Perform related duties as assigned.

MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT USED:

General Office Equipment Computer Vehicle

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

Education and Experience:

Current membership with the State Bar of California and four years experience as a practicing attorney to include two years at a level equivalent to that of the Child Support Attorney III; or any combination of education, training and experience that provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job.

Licenses and Certifications:

Licensed to practice law in the State of California
Valid Drivers License

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge of:

- Principles, procedures and practices regarding the practice of law in the State of California.
- Applicable state, federal and local ordinances, laws, rules and regulations.
- Record keeping, report preparation, filing methods and records management techniques.
- Methods and techniques of research, statistical analysis and report presentation.
- Ethical and professional standards of conduct.
- Computer applications and hardware related to performance of the essential functions of the job.

Skill in:

- Preparing clear and concise reports, correspondence and other written materials.
- Using tact, discretion, initiative and independent judgment within established guidelines.
- Organizing work, setting priorities, meeting critical deadlines, and following up on assignments with a minimum of direction.
- Applying logical thinking to solve problems or accomplish tasks; to understand, interpret and communicate complicated policies, procedures and protocols.
- Communicating clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing.

Mental and Physical Ability to:

- Analyze situations effectively, interpret and apply laws and regulations and recommend effective courses of action.
- Read, analyze and interpret professional periodicals and journals, technical procedures and government regulations.
- Write reports, motions, briefs and/or other legal documents.
- Speak effectively before groups and respond to questions.
- Argue clearly, logically and persuasively in written and oral form on child law, criminal law, and child support issues.
- Maintain confidentiality and objectivity.
- Understand and accept differences in human behavior, cultural and ethnic backgrounds.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with a variety of individuals.
- Prepare and present cases in court; negotiate settlements.
- Provide lead supervision, train and mentor less experienced attorneys.
- Perform legal research, litigations and present cases that are of the most complex nature.
- While performing the essential functions of this job the employee is regularly required to sit, use hands to finger, handle, or feel, reach with hands and arms, and speak and hear.
- While performing the essential functions of this job the employee is occasionally required to stand, walk and lift and/or move up to 40 pounds.

Working Conditions:

Work is performed in a normal office environment with little exposure to outdoor temperatures or dirt and dust.
The incumbent's working conditions are typically moderately quiet.

This class specification should not be interpreted as all-inclusive. It is intended to identify the essential functions and requirements of this job. Incumbents may be requested to perform job-related responsibilities and tasks other than those stated in this specification. Any essential function or requirement of this class will be evaluated as necessary should an incumbent/applicant be unable to perform the function or requirement due to a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodation for the specific disability will be made for the incumbent/applicant when possible.