

# Special Immigration Juvenile Status (SIJS)

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**December 11, 2025 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

Undocumented children in Child in Need of Care (CINC) proceedings are often eligible for some kind of immigration status. Although there are different types of immigration status that may be available, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) is by far the most common. SIJS is also the type of immigration status where child welfare stakeholders may have a significant role to play.

SIJS was created to allow children without lawful immigration status – and without complete parental support – to remain in the United States legally and receive protection from the state. Children with SIJS are eligible to apply for lawful permanent residency, or a green card. Our speakers will explain SIJS in detail: children who may be eligible, benefits of SIJS, the role of the juvenile court in SIJS, and what a SIJS hearing looks like. They will also outline the steps child welfare stakeholders should take in cases involving children without immigration status.



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Learn about **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)**, including who may be eligible and the benefits of SIJS.
- Gain familiarity with the **SIJS process**, including how to handle a SIJS hearing.
- Understand what steps to take in **Child in Need of Care cases** involving children without immigration status.

## AGENDA

- 12:00pm SIJ Eligibility and Benefits  
12:15pm Filing for SIJS in Juvenile Court and the Hearing  
12:50pm Questions and Discussion

## SPEAKERS



### ***Judge Thomas R. Duplantier, Division I, 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court***

Thomas R. “Tommy” Duplantier is a judge of the 15th Judicial District Division I in Louisiana. He was elected to this position on October 3, 1992, and his current term expires on December 31, 2026. Duplantier received a B.S. in business administration from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1977 and a J.D. from the Loyola University Law School in 1980. From 1998 to 2000, Duplantier was the chief judge of the 15th District. He has also served on the Lafayette Parish Family Preservation Court.



### ***Kristin M. Jones, J.D., Supervising Attorney, Catholic Charities***

Kristin M. Jones, J.D., Supervising Attorney, Catholic Charities - Kristin Jones is the Supervising Attorney at Catholic Charities of New Orleans. She trains and manages attorneys, interns, and runs Catholic Charities’ summer fellowship program. She also represents immigrant children and adults in removal proceedings with a focus on humanitarian forms of relief, like Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and asylum. Before joining Catholic Charities, Kristin worked in civil litigation, specializing in appeals.

A CINC practicing attorney will also join the panel - TBA.

### In-Person Credit Opportunities Before Year-End:

- December 8 & 12 - CINC Trial Skills for Louisiana Attorneys (1<sup>st</sup> day Zoom, 2<sup>nd</sup> in-person)
- December 15 - Closing the Year with Integrity - Ethics and Professionalism in Practice
- December 15 - Ethical Principles in Social Work Practice

Click the dates above to access info & registration.



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