

‘MYCOURTROOM’: ROSIE’S FAMILY GO TO COURT

*For individuals and groups using
the ‘Rosie’ simulation*



myCourtroom

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Background

Research tells us that many social workers and Cafcass Family Court advisers would benefit from increased confidence and better understanding of the court arena to alleviate potential anxieties (Seymour, C 2006; Holt, K & Kelly, N 2012). Work can include talking to children about their wishes and feelings, providing reports to the courts, giving evidence on the stand and being cross-examined.

‘myCourtroom’ – the simulation

The story of Rosie continues (Rosie features in two of The University of Kent’s previous simulations) as her family now go to court in a private law case – Rosie’s biological father has reappeared in her life and wants Rosie to spend time with him. A disclosure by Rosie, as the case progresses, results in local authority involvement.

‘myCourtroom’ is an interactive and immersive simulation, based on realistic scenarios designed to trigger discussions and decisions around court skills – specifically safe practice, best practice, and positive outcomes for the child. It offers professionals a unique training experience.

This innovative tool is designed for social workers, family court advisers and all child protection professionals. It provides the opportunity to encounter some of the confusing, potentially dangerous and emotionally draining situations faced in court practice, with an opportunity to discuss these issues in a safe environment with other professionals.

For professionals

The simulation features diverse characters and scenarios, offering experiential learning for professionals and is used in

conjunction with a comprehensive training pack. It offers valuable insight to assist professionals in their own presentation in court, as well as encouraging exploration of professional dilemmas around issues such as sibling group separation, permanency and neglect (threshold) in a court context.

For children, young people and litigants in person

Part of the simulation is designed to be viewed by children, young people and litigants in person, and also adults with special needs, to help prepare them for court. The standalone courtroom scene depicts a typical family court with user-friendly interactive elements. Providing an assuring representation of the family court and its procedures, it supports this potentially vulnerable group to understand the court process.



Children and young people view the simulation with a social work professional, who can answer any questions triggered by the simulation on the experience of court. Adult parties can request a temporary login to view this part of the simulation via their social work professional.

'myCourtroom' – developed in partnership

Launched in April 2016, 'myCourtroom' is the result of collaboration between Cafcass and the Centre for Child Protection (CCP) at the University of Kent.

CCP was launched in October 2012 and has aimed to get to the heart of child protection training by using innovative ideas and latest technology. It combines contemporary research with an online multi-professional advanced MA and cutting-edge child protection simulations.

Cafcass assesses and represents the best interests of children in private and public law family court proceedings.

CPD learning objectives

- Awareness of roles and expertise of professionals in the court room
- Practical application/exploration of the legal system, court rules and legal concepts
- Court preparation
- Develop practitioner confidence to scrutinise details and challenge where appropriate

- Encourage practitioners to refer to theory and research appropriately
- Awareness of general court protocol
- Information and support around cross-examination
- Explore professional dilemmas around sibling group separation, permanency and neglect (threshold) in a court context.

The training package

This new court training package includes a full day's training and 12 months' access to the resources by the trained delegate. It includes:

- Introductory presentation scene with Family Court Adviser (FCA)
- An interactive court scene to enable unaccompanied exploration of a court
- Discussion points for child to consider/raise when they met with their FCA
- Visualisation of a Directions Hearing, Case Management Hearing and Issues Resolution Hearing
- Discussion points to promote reflective learning and understanding
- A unique perspective of the voice of the child provided via Rosie's recap of events.

Book your place

Just pay for the day's training and the simulation is then free for a year for use by that person.

No payment is required by Cafcass employees. Book your place via the Centre for Child Protection, University of Kent

website, Training and Events or telephone 01227 827546 or email ccp@kent.ac.uk.

www.kent.ac.uk/sspsr/ccp/

Rosie simulations also available

'Rosie 1': The prototype introduces assessment of the McGraw family and offers professionals, at different stages of their careers, a unique way to evaluate child protection situations. The initially benign situation rapidly develops into a case of child sexual abuse. 'Rosie 1' free download and worksheet is available from our website.

'Rosie 2': This simulation revisits the McGraw family 5 years on. The case is still active and focuses on neglect. It promotes the theme of inter-professional practice by exploring the boundaries and challenges of a joint visit by a health visitor and social worker. More information is available at www.kent.ac.uk/sspsr/ccp/game/rosie2index.html


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