

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN COURT ADMINISTRATORS (ACCA)

CORE COMPETENCIES FOR COURT ADMINISTRATORS

9: Essential Components

Introduction

In studying core competencies for Canadian court administrators, ACCA looked at a number of approaches. In the end, ACCA decided to endorse the core competencies¹ as defined by the American National Association for Court Management (NACM), subject to commentaries identifying distinct Canadian issues. ACCA's decision to endorse NACM's core competencies for court administrators is based on the great similarity of issues relating to court administration in the United States and Canada, the high quality of what NACM has produced, and the great resources and time invested in creating these core competencies.

Canadian Context

The NACM core competency relating to Essential Components² is highly compatible with the Canadian Court system. You will note that this area varies significantly between jurisdictions and that individual components are likely to both evolve and make quantum leaps over time. There are no overarching issues that would distinguish the Canadian context, subject to the detailed comments below.

Commentary

From the perspective of Canadian jurisdictions, ACCA suggests that the following distinguishing points be kept in mind when reviewing or studying the NACM description of Essential Components:

1. *Introduction – What is This Competency and Why is it Important:*

Under the heading “Court Infrastructure”, the reference to the Americans with Disabilities Act and related state laws should be read in Canada as references to

¹ Core Competency Curriculum Guidelines, online: National Association for Court Management http://www.nacmnet.org/CCCG/cccg_homepage.htm

² Core Competency Curriculum Guidelines, online: National Association for Court Management http://www.nacmnet.org/CCCG/cccg_9_corecompetency_essentialcomp.html

federal and provincial human rights and employment equity laws. In addition, the reference to teen court should be replaced by youth court.

2. *Curriculum Guidelines:*

a) In the section entitled “Case Preparation” there is a reference to Grand Juries and Civil Grand Juries. These are inapplicable in Canada.

b) In the section entitled “Court Infrastructure” the reference to the Americans with Disabilities Act should be read in Canada as a reference to federal and provincial human rights and employment equity laws.

3. *Case Preparation – Knowledge, Skills and Abilities*

In item B, delete the reference to Grand Juries.

4. *Court Infrastructure – Knowledge, Skills and Abilities*

In item B, the reference to the Americans with Disabilities Act should be read in Canada as a reference to federal and provincial human rights and employment equity laws.