



State of New York
Supreme Court, Appellate Division
Third Judicial Department
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Betsy R. Ruslander
Director

MEMO

To: AFC Panel Members
From: Betsy R. Ruslander
Re: Child Marriage
Date: September 20, 2017

As you know, a new law became effective on July 20, 2017 that prohibits marriage of minors under age 17. The law permits marriage involving minors ages 17 and 18 with parental consent, but only upon application to and approval by a Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the Family Court. The purpose of the law is to end the practice of forced marriages in New York.

Under the statute, an AFC must be appointed and trained in domestic violence, including forced marriage issues. The Offices of Attorneys for Children for each of the Appellate Divisions sponsored training on August 16, 2017 entitled, "*An Overview and Discussion of the Implications of Chapter 35 of the Laws of 2017: Legislation which Amends DRL § 13-b and 15-a Prohibiting Marriages of Minors Under the Age of 17 and Raising the Age of Consent to Marriage to the Age of 17*" and it is available [here](#), online on the Second Department's website.

To access the video, the user name is **ACTIVEAFC** and the password is **Re@place1** .

In order to be eligible to accept assignments for these cases, you must watch this video and provide documentation of such to our office by filling out this [Certification of Continuing Legal Education Form](#) . Upon verification, our office will provide you with an MCLE Certificate for 1.5 hours of professional practice (family law).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your service as Attorney for the Child.