The Advance Directive Clinic: A Versatile, Community-Based Add-On Project
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ADC CONCEPT

The ADC is an add-on clinic project with the goals of:

1. Providing clinic students additional opportunities for client interaction, problem solving, document drafting, and reflective learning
2. Teaching students tools and methods for collaborating with community stakeholders
3. Offering basic estate planning services to seniors and veterans

Each ADC involves approximately one month of preparatory work and concludes with an all-day, off-site clinic where students meet their clients and execute estate planning documents (drafted by students ahead of the clinic through a multi-step, heavily-supervised drafting process).

OUR PROGRAM

- Launched in 2013
- Operated as an “add-on” project to our general Civil Clinic
- Student participation is by application
- Collaborative effort with Legal Aid, the Department of Health and Human Services, various senior centers, and the Veterans Administration
- Most clinics are conducted off-site at senior centers in rural towns where access to legal services is limited

SUGGESTED PARAMETERS

- Project takes 5-6 weeks from case distribution to document execution (we conduct ours right in the middle of the semester)
- 4-6 students per ADC (we are typically limited by the available space at the ADC locations and by supervision capacity)
- 18-22 clients is ideal (results in drafting 70-80 documents)
- 4 one-hour appointment slots offered; each student is scheduled to meet with clients during 3 of those slots (this creates a needed cushion for appointments that go long)

LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED

- Counseling on General (Simple) Estate Planning Matters
- Drafting & Execution of Basic Estate Planning Documents:
  - Simple Will
  - Power of Attorney
  - Living Will
  - Health Care Power of Attorney
  - Transfer on Death Deed

GENERAL STEPS / TIMELINE

- Market the Clinic: Begin about 2 months out with registration deadline 1 month out
- Distribute ADC Manual to Students: 5-6 weeks out
- Phone Intakes – Initial Drafts: 2-week period
- Feedback – Revisions – Final Drafts: 1-week period
- Document Finalization and Clinic Prep: 1-week period
- Execution of Documents at Off-Site Location
- Debrief and Reflection