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2015 OCT -8 A 11: 22

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA


CLERK OF THE COURT

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7 IN THE MATTER OF
8 Access to Justice
9 For Victims of Child Abuse

Administrative Order: 15-12

10 **WHEREAS**, on December 5, 2012, former Chief Judge Jennifer Togliatti issued
11 Administrative Order 12-09 establishing a special committee to examine access to justice in
12 Dependency Court;

13 **WHEREAS**, the committee, upon thoroughly examining issues relevant to the timely
14 placement of children out of dependency and into permanent homes, issued a comprehensive
15 report and recommendations to help address those issues;

16 **WHEREAS**, those recommendations were implemented via Administrative Order
17 13-03;

18 **WHEREAS**, two years have passed since the implementation of those
19 recommendations, and the Court has had the opportunity to observe and study the impact of
20 the recommendations and has determined that further adjustments to the recommendations
21 are necessary in order to improve the timely adjudication of dependency cases;

22 **WHEREAS**, Administrative Order 13-03 contemplated modification of these
23 recommendations should the necessity arise; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Clark County Blue Ribbon for Kids Commission recently published
25 their final report, addressing some of the concerns referenced herein; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the Clark County Blue Ribbon for Kids Court Reform Subcommittee
27 recently agreed to implement a one-judge-one-family case assignment.
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1 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Administrative Order 13-03 shall remain in effect
2 except as modified herein.

3 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, pursuant to EDCR 1.30(b)(5), EDCR 1.30(b)(14),
4 and EDCR 1.30(b)(18), that dependency matters shall be equitably distributed among six
5 judicial officers consisting of family division judges and hearing masters. The hearing
6 masters will be acting under the authority of the District Judges.

7 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, pursuant to EDCR 1.30(b)(5), EDCR 1.30(b)(14),
8 and EDCR 1.30(b)(18), that each judicial officer shall be assigned and be responsible for
9 adjudicating dependency matters assigned to him or her from case initiation through case
10 resolution under a one-judge-one-family case assignment and calendaring system. Under
11 this case assignment, children and families have the same judicial officer for the life of the
12 case. It will also result in reduced caseloads for each judicial officer.

13 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, pursuant to EDCR 1.30(b)(5), EDCR 1.30(b)(14),
14 and EDCR 1.30(b)(18), the court will continue to implement evidence based practices and
15 nationally recognized best practice standards for child abuse and neglect hearings outlined in
16 the NCJFCJ's Resource Guidelines. Judicial officers shall continue to be trained on and use
17 judicial bench cards in hearings to facilitate consistency with best practice recommendations,
18 the use of juvenile dependency mediation, the use of court-based procedures to enhance
19 permanency for older youth at risk of aging-out of the system and the implementation of
20 effective case flow management and calendaring processes.

21 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, pursuant to EDCR 1.30(b)(5), EDCR 1.30(b)(14),
22 and EDCR 1.30(b)(18), District Court Judge Charles J. Hoskin shall continue to preside
23 over all dependency matters and judicial officers assigned to dependency matters to resolve
24 policy and other matters as they arise, hold judicial officers accountable, mentor and assist
25 other judicial officers and reassign judicial officers if and when it may be needed. The
26 Presiding Judge shall implement appropriate procedures to resolve any objections to hearing
27 masters' decisions in a timely basis. The Presiding Judge shall also implement judicial
28 accountability mechanisms, performance expectations and insure that best practices are

1 employed throughout the system, including evidence-based strategies. The Presiding Judge
2 is also tasked with implementation of court calendars for the dependency matters in an effort
3 to insure that cases are heard timely, efficiently and considering the community partners who
4 need to be present for hearings before the Court.

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6 Entered this 8th day of October, 2015.

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9 By: 

10 DAVID BARKER
11 Chief Judge
12 Eighth Judicial District Court
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