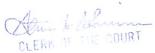
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DISTRICT COURT

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CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA



IN THE MATTER OF
Access to Justice
For Victims of Child Abuse
In the Eighth Judicial District Court

Administrative Order: 13-03

WHEREAS, on December 5, 2012, Chief Judge Jennifer Togliatti issued Administrative Order 12-09 which established a special committee to examine access to justice in the Dependency Court of the Eighth Judicial District Court; and,

WHEREAS, the committee was chaired by Judge Arthur Ritchie, Jr., and included Justice Nancy Saitta, Judge Charles Hoskin, Judge Frank Sullivan, Judge Robert Teuton, Court Executive Officer Steve Grierson, Assistant County Manager Jeff Wells, and the Executive Director of Legal Aid of Southern Nevada Barbara Buckley; and,

WHEREAS, the charge of the committee was to examine issues of court rules, court case management, case assignment, whether case processing delays are related to hearing master resources and duties as defined in EDCR 1.46, timeliness of trials and hearings, judicial resources, statistics and their definitions, statutory timeliness, trial stacks, and other related matters; and,

WHEREAS, the committee met and reviewed the court's approach to permanency for children and their families on December 12, 2012, January 11, 2013, January 23, 2013, February 8, 2013, and February 22, 2013; and,

WHEREAS, after three months of diligent work the committee submitted its comprehensive report and recommendations on March 21, 2013, with twelve recommendations; and,

WHEREAS, the implementation of the following recommendations are intended to make significant changes to the dependency court that were deemed necessary by the committee in order to ensure timely permanency for children in Clark County NV; and,

WHEREAS, on behalf of the Eighth Judicial District Court and the citizens of this State, we offer our appreciation to the committee for their time, dedication, and commitment; and,

WHEREAS, the court, by this order, intends to implement the recommendations from the committee which will improve the management of dependency cases, services, and access to justice to the dependency population:

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to EDCR 1.30(b)(5), EDCR 1.30(b)(14), and EDCR 1.30(b)(18), that one additional family court judge be assigned to hear juvenile dependency matters effective April 22, 2013.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, pursuant to EDCR 1.30(b)(5), EDCR 1.30(b)(14), and EDCR 1.30(b)(18), that the Honorable Judge Cynthia N. Giuliani, Department K, be appointed as the additional dependency court judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to EDCR 1.30(b)(5), EDCR 1.30(b)(14), and EDCR 1.30(b)(18), that for each family court judge in the juvenile dependency court, that there be one hearing master assigned to the one family court judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to EDCR 1.30(b)(5), EDCR 1.30(b)(14), and EDCR 1.30(b)(18), that there be even distribution and assignment of cases to each family court judge except in the mental health case type.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to EDCR 1.30(b)(5), EDCR 1.30(b)(14), and EDCR 1.30(b)(18), that family court judges hear preliminary protective hearings, initial adjudicatory hearings, sexual abuse adjudicatory hearings, six-month review hearings, and permanency planning hearings, and will decide on a case-by-case basis what matters can be appropriately heard by their hearing master; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to EDCR 1.30(b)(5), EDCR 1.30(b)(14), and EDCR 1.30(b)(18), family court judges may assign their respective hearing master any uncontested adjudicatory hearing or trial, dispositional hearing,

1	review hearing, permanency planning hearing, and any other ministerial related matter
2	that is critical and necessary to timely resolve permanency.
3	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Clerk's Office shall adopt reasonable
4	policies and procedures regarding appointment of counsel, case plans, and case
5	initiation.
6	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Clerk's Office implement the model
7	court hearing titles as recommended by the committee.
8	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the use of Pro Tem masters is prohibited
9	from hearing dependency matters.
10	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to EDCR 1.30(b)(8) and EDCR
11	1.30(b)(18), that district court administration require that discovery received from
12	partner agencies in juvenile dependency cases be E-filed into the court's case
13	management system so that it can be immediately served to pertinent parties.
14	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to EDCR 1.30(b)(8) and EDCR
15	1.30(b)(18), that district court administration approve the use of automated orders in the
16	dependency courts and support any technology expense necessary to implement.
17	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the committee reconvene in six months to
18	review the impact of adding one additional judge and make further recommendations to
19	the Chief Judge if necessary.
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21	Entered this, 2013.
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24	By: Jennifer P. Togliatin
25	JENNIFER P. TOGLIATIN
26	Eighth Judicial District Court
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