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# Juvenile Law Reader

Youth, Rights & Justice  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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## SB 408 Frequently Asked Questions

### When does SB 408 go into effect?

- The substantive changes go into effect January 1, 2012.

### What does SB 408 do generally?

A: SB 408 describes the criteria for sex offender registration and relief from registration for individuals who were adjudicated in a juvenile court. SB 408 does not apply to adult convictions, including persons who were waived to adult court. These are the changes enacted under SB 408:

- Juveniles adjudicated of misdemeanor sex offenses after 1/1/2012 will not be required to register. The Oregon State Police are required by SB 408 to remove all persons required to register solely as

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"Housing youth for  
any period of time in  
adult prisons and jails  
can be detrimental  
to their physical or  
mental health."

## Officials Stop Lodging Juveniles In Oregon Prison

Beginning in mid-December, Oregon juveniles convicted as adults of serious crimes are now being processed for their sentences at Oregon Youth Authority facilities, including Hillcrest Youth Correctional facility in Salem.

State officials have ended their practice of lodging juveniles in the adult prison in Wilsonville while processing them to begin serving sentences.

Shannon Wight, associate director of the Portland Partnership for Safety and Justice, was quoted in *The Oregonian* on December 12 as saying that about 100 youth a year

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the result of a previous juvenile misdemeanor adjudication no later than January 1, 2013. See SB 408, Section 2.

- Only juveniles adjudicated of felony sex crimes will have to register. See SB 408, Section 1. (2)(a)

- Juveniles adjudicated of Class C felony offenses will be eligible to apply for relief from sex offender registration no sooner than 30 days prior to the end of juvenile court jurisdiction. ORS 181.823 (2)(b)

- SB 408 removes three-year time limit for filing a petition for relief from registration for persons adjudicated as juveniles. See SB 408, Section 3.

- The burden of proof remains on the person filing the petition for relief. The previous statute included a 12-month period where the burden of proof was on the State. ORS 181.823(4)

- Persons who were adjudicated as juveniles of Class A or Class B felonies must still wait two years after juvenile court jurisdiction ends to apply for relief from registration. ORS 181.823(2)(a)

- SB 408 also removed a special filing fee of \$300 that was charged to individuals applying for relief from juvenile sex offender registration. See SB 408, Section 5.

#### **What about people who move to Oregon from other States?**

- The changes described above apply to persons adjudicated of a juvenile sex offense in another state or court jurisdiction, in general.

- A person who would be required to register for a Class C felony offense that was adjudicated in another state have 6 months to apply for relief after moving to Oregon before he or she is required to register.

#### **Where does a person who was adjudicated outside of Oregon go to apply for relief?**

- The statute directs the person who was adjudicated in another state, but is now residing in Oregon, to file the petition for relief in the circuit court of the Oregon county where the person resides.

#### **Is a person who previously missed the opportunity to apply for relief able to apply now?**

- Yes, after January 1, 2012. There is no time limit for when relief must be filed.

#### **Who bears the burden of proof when the court considers a petition for relief from registration?**

- The person filing the petition has the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the person is rehabilitated and does not pose a threat to the safety of the public.

#### **Does SB 408 change any of the criteria the court will consider when deciding to grant or deny a petition for relief?**

- No, the same criteria described in the old statute still apply.

#### **Can a person obtain a court-appointed attorney to file a petition for relief?**

- Only individuals who are adjudicated of Class C felony sex offenses in juvenile

court may be eligible for court-appointed counsel. If the youth offender is still under the jurisdiction of the court and meets the financial eligibility criteria, the court shall appoint an attorney to represent the youth offender. ORS 181.823(12)

#### **Where can I find a copy of SB 408:**

- The enrolled version of the bill, which was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, can be found at: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/11reg/measpdf/sb0400.dir/sb0408.en.pdf> ●

## Helping Traumatized Children and Youth In the Juvenile Court

By Laura Wood, Law Clerk and Triston Dallas, Law Clerk

### I. Overview of Trauma and It's Effect on Children

The majority of children and youth who encounter the Juvenile Court have faced traumatizing life events. Research has consistently demonstrated that children or youth who have had multiple exposures to

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## Youth, Rights & Justice

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trauma are at a higher risk for mental health problems, behavioral problems, substance abuse, and delinquent behaviors.<sup>1</sup>

A traumatic experience is an event that can overwhelm a person's capacity to cope and elicits intense feelings of fear, helplessness, and despair. Traumatic events can include: emotional, physical, and sexual abuse; neglect; witnessing violence, serious accidents, and serious injuries; enduring painful medical procedures, abandonment, and separation.<sup>2</sup> Rates of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among juvenile-court involved youth are comparable to those of soldiers returning home from Iraq.<sup>3</sup> The DSM-IV-TR defines PTSD as a psychiatric disorder. The diagnosis indicates that the individual has been exposed to a threatening event, is experiencing an overwhelming emotional reaction, and develops symptoms that cause severe distress and interference with daily life.<sup>4</sup> These symptoms include, avoidance, hyper arousal, and re-experiencing.<sup>5</sup>

Not all children who have suffered from trauma will develop PTSD.<sup>6</sup> Nonetheless, children and youth who have suffered trauma will likely suffer emotionally and psychologically from traumatic experiences. The severity of this impact is not only measured by the objective nature of the trauma but also by the child's or youth's subjective response.<sup>7</sup> The degree by which a child or youth is affected by a traumatic life event is influenced by his temperament, method of interpretation, basic coping skills, the level of traumatic exposure, quality of

environment, and the degree to which the child or youth has access to healthy support systems.<sup>8</sup>

Victims of abuse or exposure to other forms of violence often lose their trust in adults. Trauma inflicted by trusted adults can be particularly damaging to children.<sup>9</sup> Resulting "distrust and disregard for adults, rules, and laws place children and youth at a much greater risk for delinquency and other inappropriate behaviors."<sup>10</sup>

Traumatic experiences can impact children and youth in all areas of cognitive, social, and emotional development. Children and youth who experience trauma may have mental and physical health challenges, problems developing and maintaining healthy relationships, difficulties in learning, behavioral problems, and substance abuse issues.<sup>11</sup> A child, after coping with trauma in her life, may also exhibit different types of symptoms depending on the circumstances of her home and caregivers. For instance, children or youth placed in foster care after trauma occurs are more inclined to lack the ability to symbolize, fantasize, and subliminate.<sup>12</sup> When in a new living environment, defense mechanisms may be developed to anticipate emotions related to memories of trauma.<sup>13</sup>

On the other hand, children who are in shelters or detention and who have resorted to delinquent behavior, tend to over-perceive others' aggression and under-perceive their own aggression.<sup>14</sup> These youth are prone to possess impaired self-regulation. Furthermore, youth who experience trauma, may grow with the expectation that

life will be extremely dangerous -- that they won't survive it. As a result, they may disregard any expectation of them.<sup>15</sup>

Complex trauma is associated with a higher risk of delinquency and school failure. Such behaviors are often misunderstood; thus, responses used to address them are often ineffective.

A common myth regarding children and youth with sexual behavior problems is that it is solely the result of previous sexual abuse during childhood. While that is sometimes the case, there are various reasons that such behavior can develop.<sup>16</sup> Although adults are easily shocked or alarmed by sexual behavior in children, the reasons for such behavior in children are numerous and are seldom linked to sexual gratification.<sup>17</sup>

Alternatively, sexual behavior problems tend to be linked to other elements such as physical abuse, exposure to violence, exposure to sexualized material, and multiple placements at a young age.<sup>18</sup> The common denominator between these factors is trauma or a traumatic event. Sexual behavior is just one of many manifestations of trauma and although it seems exclusive, sexual behavior is very responsive to other universal trauma related treatment.<sup>19</sup> The youth may manifest her reactions to the trauma in ways that resemble Attention Deficit Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Conduct Disorder, or other mental disorders.<sup>20</sup> The child is often provided treatment based on these diagnoses, which focus more on the behaviors than on the underlying causes, without addressing the traumatic

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experiences that are contributing to the symptoms.<sup>21</sup> Fortunately, many assessment tools are being developed and implemented to help identify and track trauma histories.<sup>22</sup> In addition, many evidence-based practices are available to courts and communities for treating youth who are impacted by trauma.<sup>23</sup>

In both dependency and delinquency cases, the Juvenile Court system has the vital task of understanding the range of issues that affect the lives of children and their families. Exposure to trauma is one of the most pervasive factors and, to be most effective in protecting society, safeguarding the youth, and holding delinquent youth accountable while providing their rehabilitation, the juvenile court must understand the complexity of trauma and advocate for the engagement of resources that address child traumatic stress.

Resources designed to address trauma may be underutilized. For example, in dependency cases, studies have indicated that frequent visitation between the parent and her child placed in foster care, is often the best tool used for minimizing the effects of trauma associated with removal.<sup>24</sup> Thus, when appropriate, a lawyer can advocate for the improvement of his or client's visitation with parents, siblings, and other family members. From a fundamental level, all lawyers who work within the juvenile justice

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system should be aware of trauma and its effect on children, advocate for trauma assessments and for evidence-based trauma treatments when they are in the client's interest.

## II. Best Practices: A Lawyer's Guide to working with a traumatized youth client.

- Build a trusting rapport with your client.

1. A warm manner enhances young children's free recall memory and reduces children's suggestibility. Thus, an attorney can gain a healthy rapport with her client by smiling, making eye contact, acknowledging what a child has said by repeating it back, appearing interested, and making positive statements like thanking the child for talking.<sup>25</sup> Speaking about past traumas can be anxiety inducing and thus, it is important to create an atmosphere that does not add to the child's sense of powerlessness.

2. Always try to interview the child in a natural setting. Children recall and report fewer details when interviewed in a court or office setting.<sup>26</sup>

3. Furthermore, begin each client interview by inviting a narrative. To facilitate such discussion, simply ask the child open questions about neutral topics. For example, "Tell me about your favorite subject in school?" When interviewing a client, use invitational questions, focused questions, and facilitators.<sup>27</sup> Avoid

closed, leading ("How many times has your dad hurt you?"), or coercive questions ("If you tell us what he did, we will give you a treat").<sup>28</sup> Use a combination of the following types of questions:

- a. Invitational Questions prompt free recall and contain little information: "Tell me about your family," or "Tell me more about \_\_\_\_."
  - b. Focused questions or specific questions are used throughout the conversation to add necessary clarification/detail: "Who was there?" or "Where was your mom?"
4. There a number of Do's and Don'ts when meeting with or interviewing a child who may have experienced trauma:
    - a. Wait for answers.
    - b. Allow children to explain the meaning of the words they use.
    - c. Check for understanding.
    - d. Keep each sentence simple.
    - e. Don't interrupt.
    - f. Don't stack up multiple questions before allowing the child to answer.
    - g. Avoid big words.
    - h. Avoid legalese.
    - i. Avoid the question, "why?"
    - j. Avoid pronouns that can be confusing or vague.
    - k. Avoid using unnecessary negatives.<sup>29</sup>

- Advocate for the completion of careful and thorough trauma histories.<sup>30</sup>

1. Advocate for trauma histories for the client coming before the court so that appropriate decisions about custody, visitation, treatment, and placement can be made. Without having access to trauma histories, the child may not receive the treatment needed to address the underlying causes of various problems and the ongoing factors that rekindle them. Those in the legal profession, especially judges, need a realistic picture of a child's history, symptoms, and current functioning in order to find the appropriate placement, visitation, services, and permanency. It is crucial that the child's attorney advocate for access to the child's complete trauma history.

- Clarify for the court and service providers the struggles your client is facing by seeking education and training to understand how a child's trauma history impacts the child's development, mental health, behavior, and current functioning.<sup>31</sup>
- Be familiar with the use of standardized trauma assessment tools and trauma profile instruments.<sup>32</sup>
- Advocate for access to evidence-based practices (EBP) and promising practice approaches.<sup>33</sup>

1. In order to find appropriate EBPs, seek providers who are knowledgeable about trauma treatment and able to provide the most appropriate therapy. Interventions that warrant the EBP label have shown consistent scientific evidence that support client outcomes. These may include

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Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Abuse-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (AF-CBT), and Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP).

2. In addition it is important to learn which models have been developed or culturally modified based upon a specific racial/ethnic/cultural group.

3. Best practice tip: develop a list of community providers who have training and experiences in an EBT.

- When appropriate, set the expectation that the parent or guardian will be involved in the child's treatment.<sup>34</sup>

- When reports or assessments are submitted to the court, demand that the information be specific, observable, and measurable.<sup>35</sup>

- In both dependency and delinquency cases, advocate for proper assessment and best treatments for the client. Bring awareness of the assessed needs of your client and based on those needs, advocate for the appropriate services.

- In a delinquency case, investigate the impact of the client's trauma history and evaluate whether such trauma can be used to undermine the *mens rea* element of the alleged offense or indicates mental defenses.

- Seek or create an advisory group that can increase community awareness of evidence-based practices and the necessary training requirements. Also, make recommendations

to the court.<sup>36</sup>

### III. Resiliency: Half Myth/Half Truth

Although we would love to assume that all children are extremely resilient, research suggests that the degree to which one is resilient is influenced by a complex interaction of risk and protective factors that exist across various domains, such as individual, family, community and school.<sup>37</sup> Resiliency research indicates that youth are more likely to overcome adversities associated with trauma when they have caring and stable support from adults.<sup>38</sup>

### IV. Resources

There are a number of on-line resources to help professionals to better understand and recognize the signs of traumatic stress and to develop appropriate responses to assist children recover from experiences of trauma.

*The Invisible Suitcase: A Guide to Helping Traumatized Children and Youth In the Juvenile Court: The Resource Guide*

#### General Web-Based Resources:

- National Child Traumatic Stress Network (<http://www.nctsn.org>)
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (<http://www.ncjfcj.org>)
- National Center for Trauma-Informed Care (<http://www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/nctic>)
- CARES Institute-Child Abuse Research Education Service (<http://www.caresinstitute.org>)

- Child Trauma Academy (<http://www.childtrauma.org>)

- Center for Traumatic Stress in Children and Adolescents-Allegheny General Hospital (<http://www.nctsn.org/about-us/network-members/allegheny-general-hospital-center-traumatic-stress-children-and-adolescents>)

- National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children (<http://www.starrtraining.org/trauma-and-children>)

- International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (<http://www.istss.org>)

- Medical University of South Carolina (<http://www.musc.edu/tfcbt>)

- Ohio Can Do 4 Kids (<http://www.ohiocando4kids.org>)

- Online Training in Trauma (<http://taptraining.net>) (<http://tfcbt.musc.edu>)

#### Assessment Tools:

- Traumatic Events Screening Inventory: (Daviss, W.B., Mooney, D., Racusin, R., Ford, J.D., Fleischer, A., & McHugo, G.J. *Predicting posttraumatic stress after hospitalization for pediatric injury*. Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 39(5), 576-583 (2000))

- Child Trauma Screening Tool: (Igelman, R., Taylor, N., Gilbert, A., Ryan, B., Steinberg, A., Wilson, C., & Mann, G. *Creating more trauma-informed services for children using assessment-focused tools*. Child Welfare, 86(5), 15-33, (2007))

- UCLA Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Reaction Index:

(Steinberg, A.M., Brymer, M.J., Decker, K.B., & Pynoos, R.S. *The University of California at Los Angeles post-traumatic stress disorder reaction index*. Current Psychiatry Reports, 6, 96-100 (2004).)

- Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children: (Briere, J. *Trauma symptom checklist for children professional manual*. Odessa, FL: Psychological Assessment Resources (1996).

#### Evidence-Based Treatments (EBTs) for Youth Who Have Experienced Trauma:

For a comprehensive list please go to: ([http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn\\_assets/pdfs/CCG\\_Book.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/CCG_Book.pdf))

However, some of the most common EBTs include:

- Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS)

- Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy (TARGET-A)

- Trauma-Focused Cognitive behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)

- Sanctuary Model

In addition, these sources may be useful:

- California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (<http://www.cachildwelfareclearinghouse.org>)

- Closing the Quality Chasm on Child Abuse Treatment (Chadwick Center for Children and Families. *Closing the quality chasm on child abuse treatment: Identifying and disseminating best practices*. San Diego, CA (2004))

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- **Child Physical and Sexual Abuse Guidelines for Treatment** (Saunders, B.E., Berliner, L., & Hanson, R.F. (Eds.). *Child physical and sexual abuse: Guidelines for treatment* (Revised report: April 26, 2004). Charleston, SC: National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center. 2004)
- **National Child Traumatic Stress Network** (<http://www.nctsn.org>)
- **Search Institute in Minneapolis: Variety of Tools to identify and promote Developmental Assets** ([www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org))

#### Key Definitions to Know:

- **Acute Trauma:** a single traumatic event that is limited in time (earthquake, motor vehicle accident, dog bite, etc.) Carly B. Dierkhising, MA., Kristine Buffington, MSW., Shawn C. Marsh, Ph.D., *Ten Things Every Juvenile Court Judge Should Know About Trauma and Delinquency*, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 1-18, 3 (2010).
- **Chronic Trauma:** Chronic trauma may refer to multiple and varied (traumatic) events such as a child who is exposed to domestic violence at home, is involved in a car accident, and then becomes a victim of community violence, or longstanding trauma such as physical abuse or war. *Id.*
- **Complex Trauma:** Complex is a term used by some experts to describe both exposure to chronic trauma-usually caused by adults entrusted with the child's care, such as parents or caregivers-and the immediate

and long-term impact of such exposure on the child. *Id.*

- **Hypervigilance:** Abnormally increased arousal, responsiveness to stimuli, and scanning of the environment for threats. Hypervigilance is a symptom that adults and youth can develop after exposure to dangerous and life-threatening events. The American psychiatric Association's diagnostic criteria manual (DSM-IV-TR) identifies it as a symptom related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. *Id.*
- **Resiliency:** A pattern of positive adaptation in the context of past or present adversity. *Id.*
- **Traumatic Reminders:** A traumatic reminder is any person, situation, sensation, feeling or thing that reminds a child of a traumatic event. When faced with these reminders, a child may re-experience the intense and disturbing feelings tied to the original trauma. ●

<sup>1</sup> Carly B. Dierkhising, MA., Kristine Buffington, MSW., Shawn C. Marsh, Ph.D., *Ten Things Every Juvenile Court Judge Should Know About Trauma and Delinquency*, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 1-18, (2010).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 3.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 4.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 7.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 2010 at page 5 citing Ford et al., 2007; Saun-

ders et al., 2005

<sup>12</sup> Bessel A. Van der Kolk MD., *Psychological Trauma*, page 39 (1987).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> Judith Baer and Tina Maschi, *Random Acts of Delinquency: Trauma and Self-Destructiveness in Juvenile Offenders*, Volume 20, Number 2, 85-98, 87 (2003).

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> Sexual behavior problems are defined as child "initiated behavior involving sexual body parts that are developmentally inappropriate or potentially harmful to themselves or others." Lisa M. Swisher, Jane F. Silovsky, Judge Roger H. Stuart, and Keri Pierce, *Special Issue-Child Trauma-II: Children with Sexual Behavior Problems*, 59 Juv. & Fam. Ct. J. 49, 51 (2008).

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> *Id.* at 52.

<sup>19</sup> Carly B. Dierkhising, MA., Kristine Buffington, MSW., Shawn C. Marsh, Ph.D., *Ten Things Every Juvenile Court Judge Should Know About Trauma and Delinquency*, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 1-18, 2 (2010).

<sup>20</sup> *Id.* at 8.

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> *Id.* at 9.

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> J. Leonard P. Edwards, *Judicial Oversight of Parental Visitation in Family Reunification Cases* 1-24, 2 (2003).

<sup>25</sup> Erna Olafson and Julie Kenniston, *Special Issue-Child Trauma-II: Obtaining Information from Children in the Justice System*, 59 Juv. & Fam. Ct. J. 71, 74 (2008).

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

<sup>27</sup> Facilitators are the neutral prompts or repetition of the client's last phrase that encourages further speech: "uh huh" or "I see." *Id.*

<sup>28</sup> *Id.* at 76.

<sup>30</sup> Christine Marsh, Jenifer Maze, Judge Doris L. Fransen, and Roy Van Tassel, *Special Issue-Child Trauma-II; An Overview of the Special Issue*, 59

Juv. & Fam. Ct. J. 3, 10 (2008)

<sup>31</sup> Alicia M. Gilbert, Barbara E. Ryan, Judge Cynthia Bashant, Kathryn North, and Robyn S. Igelman, *Special Issue-Child Trauma-II: Best Practices for Serving Traumatized Children and Families*, 59 Juv. & Fam. Ct. J. 35, 45 (2008)

<sup>32</sup> *Id.* see Resource Guide

<sup>33</sup> *Id.*

<sup>34</sup> *Id.*

<sup>35</sup> *Id.*

<sup>36</sup> *Id.*

<sup>37</sup> Carly B. Dierkhising, MA., Kristine Buffington, MSW., Shawn C. Marsh, Ph.D., *Ten Things Every Juvenile Court Judge Should Know About Trauma and Delinquency*, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 1-18, 11 (2010).

<sup>38</sup> *Id.*



#### Happy New Year!

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves"

— Bill Vaughn

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and what we do at:  
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# Juvenile Law Resource Center

## Advocating for Teenage Parents

By Kimberly Elkin, Law Clerk

Advocating for teen parents can often be difficult. It can be harder to establish a trusting attorney-client relationship in such cases, and teen parents may have more complex competing interests: their relationship with their own parents, their child's grandparents, the difficulty of attending school while being a full-time parent, and their lesser experience with parenting. Attorneys should keep in mind the age of their client and use terms the client can understand. Attorneys should assure teen clients that they have the same rights as an adult parent to raise their child. Attorneys for teen parents should hold others accountable for allowing the teen to participate in parenting his or her child.

Attorneys for teen parents will also often have to address assumptions that are made about teen parents. For example, it is often assumed that, because of their age and lack of experience, teen parents are not competent to raise their own children, or that children born to teenagers are automatically considered to be neglected or abused.<sup>i</sup> These assumptions about teen parents must be challenged and overcome by the attorney for the teen parent.<sup>ii</sup>

A parent's age or lack of experience parenting is not sufficient reason for the state to take custody of a teen's child. There must be evidence that the "child's condition or surroundings reasonably appear to be such as to jeopardize the child's welfare". ORS 419B.150 (1)(a). The Department of Human Services (DHS) must make reasonable efforts to prevent any removal of a child. ORS 419B.185 (1)(a). Often the issue at a shelter or jurisdictional hearing is whether the concerns the agency has about the teen parent actually constitute harm to the baby. Even if the court finds circumstances that jeopardize the baby, there often are services (reasonable efforts) that can be put in place to mitigate the jeopardy and allow the baby to remain with the teen parent.

There are numerous state and local services in place that can help assist teen parents compensate for their youth, while raising their children. These services not only can help provide financial assistance, they also can help teach youth to become better parents.

Two of the most heavily utilized resources are *WIC* and *Food Stamps*.<sup>iii</sup> Both of these resources can give parents either vouchers for groceries, formula, or other resources if they financially qualify. More specifically, *WIC* is a state "[s]upplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children. This public health program is designed to improve health outcomes and influence

lifetime nutrition and health behaviors in targeted, at-risk populations. Nutrition education is the cornerstone of the WIC Program."<sup>iv</sup> By assisting with the financial and nutritional aspect of being a parent, teen parents are better able to focus on raising their child.

*A parent's age or lack of experience parenting is not sufficient reason for the state to take custody of a teen's child.*

Another valuable resource available to teen parents in Multnomah County is *Teen Insights*. *Teen Insights* is a nonprofit agency dedicated exclusively to the needs of teenage parents and their children. *Teen Insights* is a unique program because it offers support to teenage parents in a non-financial unique way. *Teen Insights* offers morale support for teens, as well as helps assist teens in obtaining housing, staying in school, and even offers teens crucial parenting classes. *Teen Insights* is a great resource for any parent under the age 23.<sup>v</sup>

The last set of resources are available specifically for teen parents who, themselves, are in foster care. *TANF* grants can assist teen parents, who are already in foster care to help keep and raise their child.<sup>vi</sup> Furthermore, the foster parents of the teen parents are able to receive additional funding

through their maintenance payments for their teen's child, even if the child is not a ward of the state.<sup>vii</sup> These two forms of aid can be extremely beneficial to teen parents, and can help offset the tendency to place children of teens, who are in foster care, automatically in the custody of the state.

Through specialized advocacy focusing on the specific dilemmas teen parents face, advocates for teen parents can help assert the rights of the teen parent, rebut any assumptions made about the teen parent and provide meaningful referral to services that can aid the teen parent. ●

<sup>i</sup> Sarah Katz, *When the Child is a Parent: Effective Advocacy for Teen Parents in the Child Welfare System*, Temp. L. Rev., Summer 2006.

<sup>ii</sup> Emily Buss, *The Parental Rights of Minors*, 48 Buff. L. Rev. 785, (2000).

<sup>iii</sup> To inquire about applying for and obtaining Food Stamps call (503) 945-5600 for further assistance.

<sup>iv</sup> To inquire about applying for and obtaining *WIC* call 1-800-723-3638, if you are in Multnomah County call (503) 988-3503 ; <http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyPeopleFamilies/wic/Pages/index.aspx>

<sup>v</sup> For more information about *Teen Insights* call (503) 239-6996 ; <http://www.insightstpp.org/contact.html>

<sup>vi</sup> For more information and assistance please call (503) 731-3111 ; <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/assistance/cash/tanf.shtml>

<sup>vii</sup> Lisa Pilink & Laura Austen, *Advocacy for young or Expectant Parents in Foster Care*, ABA Child Law Practice- Health Matters Vol.28 No.7.

# Juvenile Law Resource Center

## Guiding Fathers through Child Welfare Proceedings

By Kimberly Elkin, Law Clerk

Attorneys representing fathers in dependency and termination of parental rights cases, can help their clients have a better understanding of their rights and responsibilities as parents by referring them to, or providing copies of, new booklets prepared by the National Quality Improvement Center. These guides help fathers understand the process in child welfare cases. The Center has published six guides explaining not only the rights and responsibilities of fathers, but also a father's role in and out of court, key information about child support, and information regarding a father's role if they are currently or have previously been incarcerated. These guides provide general information to fathers, in hopes of better preparing and informing them about their legal predicament.

- Guide one outlines the basic rights and responsibilities of fathers during child protections proceedings. Just like mothers, fathers have the basic right to notice,

to contest allegations, to participate in court, to representation, to a fair trial, and most importantly to maintain a relationship with their child. Moreover, guide one also provides a long list of responsibilities that fathers owe the court, their child, and themselves in order to facilitate the best possible outcome.

- Guide two discusses how fathers should work with their attorney, if they have one. Guide four also gives advice, to fathers, on how to obtain legal aid if they are unable to afford an attorney and an attorney has not been appointed to them by the court.
- Guide three outlines the court process from the proceedings to the key participants. This guide can be an extraordinarily helpful resource for fathers because not many people are familiar with the court process. Furthermore, it can also help to clarify any misconceptions that the father may have regarding the court room procedure, the roles of the different players, and some of the terminology used.
- Guide four explains the important tasks that fathers need to perform outside of the court. These tasks range from communicating with their attorney and caseworkers, to performing court ordered services and arranging supportive permanent housing for their children. These tasks are crucial because they help facili-

tate case closure and positive outcomes.

- Guide five discusses the law and policies surrounding child support. This guide explains when one owes child support, and the consequences of failing to pay.
- Lastly guide six outlines the role of father's who are currently or have previously been incarcerated. Although fathers may have a difficult time being present and fully participating in their child's case if they are currently incarcerated, they maintain the traditional rights of parents in child protections proceedings. Furthermore, incarcerated parents should make a greater effort to fully inform their attorneys of their wishes for their case as they may not be able to present their opinion to the court themselves.

In combination with open communication and zealous advocacy, these guides can help to provide fathers with a solid understanding of the court and case process if their child is at the center of a child welfare proceeding. The National Quality Improvement Center's guides for Fathers in Child Protections Cases can be found at [http://www.fatherhoodqic.org/father\\_guide.pdf](http://www.fatherhoodqic.org/father_guide.pdf) ●



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## Case Summaries

**G.J.L. v. A.K.L.**, 244 Or App 523, 261 P.3d 47 (July 27, 2011),

<http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/A143417.pdf>

Paternal grandparents appealed from a judgment denying their petition for court-ordered visitation with their grandson, and the Court of Appeals affirmed.

A.L. was removed from his parents' home at 10 months old, and placed in foster care with his grandparents. While this arrangement was initially positive, A.L.'s parents and grandparents came to disagree about A.L.'s childrearing and care, leading to strained relations and the grandparents filed a petition under ORS 109.119 seeking: visitation; the right to contact A.L.; and an order restraining both mother and grandparents from moving more than 60 miles further from the other without 60 days' notice to the other party and to the court. That petition was consolidated with the juvenile court case.

After A.L. was returned to his parents and the juvenile court terminated wardship, the grandparents' petition was heard by the juvenile court. Mother opposed the petition, arguing that it was in A.L.'s best interest to

*Continued on next page »*



# Juvenile Law Resource Center

« Case Summaries continued from previous page

focus on reconnecting with his biological mother and father, and with mother's family. Grandparents countered that A.L. would suffer from losing his relationship with them. The trial court denied grandparents' petition, and grandparents appealed.

In a rare grant of *de novo* review the Court of Appeals concluded that grandparents had failed to rebut the presumption under ORS § 109.119(4) that A.L.'s mother was acting in his best interests in opposing the petition. The Court commented that, although a relationship with grandparents could be a positive element in A.L.'s life, "the statutory presumption accords parents significant freedom to make decisions on behalf of their children, even when the wisdom of those decisions may be arguable."

***Dept. of Human Services v. V.W.***, 245 Or App 161, 261 P.3d 93 (August 17, 2011), <http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/A147763.pdf>

Mother appealed from a judgment terminating her parental rights. The Court of Appeals concluded that, although the state had not proved abandonment – which was one of several findings upon which the trial court had based its decision – it had proved other allegations by clear and convincing evidence. Relying on *Dept. of Human Services*

*v. B.J.B.*, 242 Or App 534 (2011), the Court of Appeals affirmed the judgment, but made note that its decision was not based on any allegation of abandonment.

***Dept. of Human Services v. G.D.W.***, 246 Or App 66, \_\_\_\_ P.3d \_\_\_\_ (October 12, 2011), <http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/A147584.pdf>

Father appealed trial court judgments finding his daughters, V and C, to be within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as to him, and concluding that, based on a finding that father had sexually abused V, aggravated circumstances excused DHS from making reasonable efforts to reunify the children with father. On appeal, father argued that the juvenile court erred: (1) in admitting out-of-court statements by V; (2) in finding that father had sexually abused V, and (3) that, therefore, aggravated circumstances existed; and (4) in finding jurisdiction based on father's history of cocaine and alcohol abuse.

Mother reported to police that father had been physically abusive to her and had sexually abused V, but later recanted her statements as to the later. V also, at different times, alleged to people that father had sexually abused her. In addition to allegations of abuse, mother reported that father drank heavily and used cocaine. DHS

ultimately filed a petition to make V and C wards of the court.

At trial, the court admitted into evidence out-of-court-statements by V describing the inappropriate touching. Mother testified that she had instructed V to say that father had touched her. Among other things, the trial court found that father had, indeed, sexually abused V, and entered a judgment pursuant to ORS § 419B.340(5)(a)(D) that aggravated circumstances excused DHS from making reasonable efforts to reunify the children and father.

With regard to father's first assignment of error (that the juvenile court erred in admitting V's out-of-court statements), the Court of Appeals relied on *State ex rel Juw. Dept. v. Cowens*, 143 Or App 68 (1996) and *Dept. of Human Services v. Meyers*, 207 Or App 271 (2006), for the proposition that a child's out-of-court statements in a dependency case are admissible as statements of a party opponent. With regard to father's second and third assignments of error, the Court of Appeals declined – pursuant to ORAP 5.40(8)(d) – to exercise its discretion to review *de novo* the trial court's factual findings, and agreed with the state that in light of a finding that father had sexually abused V, aggravated circumstances existed that excused DHS from making reasonable efforts to reunify the children with father. Finally, the Court of Appeals stated that it could not conclude that the trial court erred

in including father's alcohol and cocaine use among its bases for jurisdiction.

***Dept. of Human Services v. G.E.***, 246 Or App 136, \_\_\_\_ P.3d \_\_\_\_ (October 19, 2011), <http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/A146271.pdf>

Mother requested reconsideration of the decision to reverse and remand a juvenile court judgment denying her motion to dismiss jurisdiction over her child. Mother argued that the court erroneously determined that her untreated substance abuse, as described in the original petition and jurisdictional judgment, continued to provide a basis for jurisdiction. Mother did not dispute the juvenile court's finding that she failed to follow through with court-recommended substance abuse treatment, but argued that because she was not suffering from a substance abuse problem that endangered the child at the time of appeal, there was no basis for continuing jurisdiction. The Court of Appeals allowed reconsideration, agreed with mother, and dismissed juvenile court jurisdiction. Relying on *Dept. of Human Services v. D.T.C.*, 231 Or App 544 (2009), the Court concluded that there was no evidence in the record that any possible substance abuse problem presented current a threat to the child.

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# Juvenile Law Resource Center

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« Case Summaries continued from previous page

**Dept. of Human Services v. L.B.**, 246 Or App 169, \_\_\_\_ P.3d \_\_\_\_ (October 19, 2011), <http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/A147703.pdf>

Mother appealed judgments changing the permanency plan for her children from reunification to adoption, on the grounds that they did not include the required finding under ORS § 419B.476(5)(d) as to whether a compelling reason existed for determining that filing a petition to terminate her parental rights would not be in the best interest of the child. Although mother asserted this argument for the first time on appeal, the Court of Appeals exercised its discretion to correct the errors in the permanency judgments, reasoning that the statute demands more than inferences from such judgments, and that “the legislature has manifested its intent that a juvenile court expressly connect all of the dots along the way to a change in the permanency plan.”

**Dept. of Human Services v. N.M.S.**, 246 Or App 284, \_\_\_\_ P.3d \_\_\_\_ (October 26, 2011), <http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/A147968.pdf>

Mother appealed a judgment approving a

change in the permanency plans for her three children from reunification to adoption. At issue on appeal was whether the juvenile court had relied on facts extrinsic to those upon which jurisdiction was established when it assessed DHS’ “reasonable efforts” toward reunification and mother’s “sufficient progress” toward reunification under ORS § 419B.476(2)(a). The Court of Appeals reversed and remanded, reasoning that a change in plan was warranted because the juvenile court appeared to have relied, in part, on facts not fairly encompassed within the grounds for jurisdiction in reaching its conclusion under ORS § 419B.476.

**Dept. of Human Services v. D.S.F.**, 246 Or App 302, \_\_\_\_ P.3d \_\_\_\_ (October 26, 2011), <http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/A148200.pdf>

Father appealed a juvenile court jurisdictional arguing that the juvenile court’s conclusion that he would endanger the children by allowing them to have contact with mother, who had a long history of substance abuse problems, was not supported by the record. Agreeing with father, the Court of Appeals reversed.

Father contested the court’s jurisdiction and he and DHS stipulated that mother was never around the children unsupervised, and that the children were bonded to father,

well cared for, and developing appropriately. However, DHS argued that the children were at risk because they might see mother following another relapse, and because the children knew that mother was a substance abuser. DHS acknowledged that it could not prove actual harm to the children, but argued that the children were nonetheless in a harmful environment as a result of the risk posed by mother’s history and pattern of substance abuse. The juvenile court concluded that DHS had proved by a preponderance of evidence that father’s conduct endangered the children as alleged.

The Court of Appeals reversed, reasoning that “[e]vidence that a child has been exposed to a parent exhibiting the adverse effects of intoxication is not, in and of itself, a basis for juvenile court jurisdiction over a child,” and that “[i]n order for a court to take jurisdiction over a child based on such exposure, there must be evidence that the exposure puts the child at risk of serious loss or injury” (quoting *Dept. of Human Services v. D.T.C.*, 231 Or App 544 (2009)). The Court explained that under ORS § 419B.100(1), jurisdiction must be founded on evidence that a parent’s conduct “creates a ‘reasonable likelihood of harm to the welfare’ of his or her child,” and that there was insufficient evidence in the record that father’s conduct met this standard.

**Dept. of Human Services v. N.S.**, 2011 WL 5176771, \_\_\_\_ Or App \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ P.3d \_\_\_\_ (Nov. 2, 2011), <http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/A147443.pdf>

Mother appealed from a judgment changing the permanency plan for her child from reunification to adoption, arguing that DHS had failed to make reasonable efforts to achieve reunification, and that mother had made sufficient progress to make it possible for the child to safely return home. ORS § 419B.476(2)(a). The Court of Appeals affirmed, agreeing with DHS that the agency had made reasonable efforts, and that despite such efforts and mother’s completion of services, mother had nevertheless failed to make sufficient progress because she did not demonstrate an understanding of the importance of protecting the child from unsafe individuals, and because mother’s parenting skills had not improved. The Court explained that some of DHS’ efforts had been “hampered” by mother’s conduct, and that, in any event “mere participation in services . . . is not sufficient to establish adequate progress toward reunification” (quoting *Dept. of Human Services v. S.L.*, 211 Or App 362 (2007)).

With regard to the safety of mother’s home,

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# Juvenile Law Resource Center

« Case Summaries continued from previous page

the Court noted that a previous case involving the mother and child had been based on a juvenile court determination that mother was unable to recognize the risk of harm to the child posed by her brother, a convicted and untreated sex offender. While that judgment was ultimately reversed, the Court of Appeals reasoned in this case as follows:

"Taken together, the brother's failure to complete sex offender treatment, his continued and untreated abuse of alcohol, and his unfettered access to mother's home provide enough of a link from his current circumstances to his past sex offense to establish a potential risk to the child. While that risk may be manageable, the record supports the juvenile court's determination that mother has not shown sufficient progress toward recognizing or addressing that risk." ●



"All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope."

— Winston Churchill

« Lodging Juveniles continued from page 1

spent up to a week at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility after being convicted as adults. Most juveniles subsequently serve their sentences at juvenile facilities run by the Oregon Youth Authority.

Wight said the state Corrections Department and OYA agreed to change their practices after the partnership questioned them.

The juveniles were held in segregation cells for up to 23 hours a day while at Coffee Creek, Wight said. They mixed with adult prisoners at times, such as meals, Wight said.

"Housing youth for any period of time in adult prisons and jails can be detrimental to their physical or mental health," said Wight.

All incoming state prisoners are processed at the Wilsonville prison before assignment elsewhere. This has included 16- and 17-year-olds convicted as adults of Measure 11 crimes.

OYA officials said those youth now will be processed at Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility in Salem or Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility in Albany. Agency officials said the change also will put juveniles into treatment programs quicker.

For the complete article by Les Zaitz:  
[http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2011/12/officials\\_to\\_stop\\_lodging\\_juve.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2011/12/officials_to_stop_lodging_juve.html) ●

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[www.youthrightsjustice.org](http://www.youthrightsjustice.org)

## Referrals for Personal Injury Cases

Attorney David Paul, who has handled referrals for the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association's (OTLA) Juvenile Justice Project since 2005, has passed the torch to OTLA Attorney Erin Olson. Referrals should now be made to:

Erin K. Olson  
Law Office of Erin Olson PC  
2014 NE Broadway St.  
Portland, OR 97232  
Phone: 503-546-3150  
FAX: 503-548-4435  
Email: [eolson@erinolsonlaw.com](mailto:eolson@erinolsonlaw.com)

The OTLA Juvenile Justice Project was created by the OTLA Public Justice Committee in 2002, and is the product of a request by the Oregon Department of Justice, along with Hon. Elizabeth Welch, for a procedure by which children who suffer personal injuries while wards of the court in Multnomah County are referred to competent counsel who can investigate and pursue their claims, as appropriate. Attorneys who participate in the Juvenile Justice Project are screened for suitability to handle cases in three areas: general litigation, professional negligence, and civil rights. Attorneys must agree to serve as guardians *ad litem* for other attorneys' cases in order to participate in the project.

Plans are in the works to recruit additional attorneys to participate in the Project and to coordinate training for all participants and others who are interested in the subject matter. ●

## Case Summaries

***State v. Singer*, 245  
Or.App.568, \_\_\_P.3d\_\_\_  
(September 21, 2011) (Multnomah Co.) (Armstrong, J.)**

Definition of seized under Article 1,  
§ 9

<http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/A138767.pdf>

Singer (the defendant) was a passenger in a car when it was pulled over for a traffic violation. After hesitating to give her name, the police officer ran a warrant check, which revealed that the defendant was on probation after being convicted of a drug offense. Upon returning to the car, the police officer asked the defendant to step out of the car, and informed the defendant that he knew she was on probation. After stepping out of the car, the police officer noticed that she was under the influence of intoxicants and asked for the defendant's consent to search her person and her purse. After hesitation the defendant agreed, and the police officer

*Continued on next page »*



« Case Summaries continued from previous page

located illegal drugs. The sole issue on appeal was whether or not the defendant was seized under Article 1, § 9 of the Oregon Constitution, and therefore whether or not the evidence found on the defendant's person and in her belongings should be suppressed. The Appeals Court held that the police officer's "conduct toward [the] defendant would lead a reasonable person in [the] defendant's position to believe that she was the subject of a criminal investigation and," thus the defendant was seized for purposes of Article 1, § 9. Therefore because the defendant's freedom of movement was restricted, the evidence was suppressed.

***State v. Zaccone*, 245 Or.App. 560, \_\_\_P.3d\_\_\_ (September 21, 2011) (Multnomah Co.) (Armstrong, J.)**

Definition of seized under Article 1, § 9

<http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/A136329.pdf>

Zaccone (the defendant) was a passenger in a car when it was pulled over for a traffic violation. After hesitating to give his name, the officer ran warrant checks on all of the car's occupants. The warrant check yielded that the driver had a suspended license, and the name the defendant gave her was not in the system, leading the officer to believe it was a fake name. A second officer then approached the car and asked the defendant to step out. At that point the officer noticed

the defendant trying to hide a wallet. After questioning the defendant as to his actions, the defendant agreed to allow the officer to grab and search his wallet. Upon a warrant check, of the defendant's actual identity, no outstanding warrants were found; however because the driver's license was suspended, the officers decided to tow the car. After all occupants of the car had been instructed to exit the vehicle and stand by the police car, the officer conducted an inventory search of the car; upon which, she found two bags that belonged to the defendant. After asking for the defendant's consent twice, the defendant gave his consent for the bags to be searched. In the bags the officer found narcotics, burglary tools and personal information belonging to numerous individuals. The sole issue on appeal was whether or not the defendant was seized under Article 1, § 9 of the Oregon Constitution, and therefore whether or not the evidence found in the defendant's bags should be suppressed. The appeals court concluded that "[a] reasonable inference from the sequence of events is that [the] defendant was the subject of a continuing investigation, and, hence, a reasonable person in the circumstances presented in this case would believe that his or her freedom of movement had been significantly restricted" by the officer's show of authority, and therefore for purposes of Article 1, § 9, the defendant was seized and the evidence suppressed.



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***State v. Vidal*, 245 Or.App. 51, \_\_\_P.3d\_\_\_1 (September 21, 2011) (Multnomah Co.) (Brewer, C.J.)**

Admissibility of expert diagnosis of sexual abuse

<http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/A142579.pdf>

Vidal (the defendant) was appealing multiple convictions of sex crimes. During trial the state rested heavily upon evidence from an expert witness who testified that the symptoms the victim presented with were significant and indicative of child sexual abuse. The defendant appeals and asserts that the introduction of the expert's diagnosis constitutes plain error. The defendant relies heavily on the case of *State v. Southern* where the court held that testimony from an expert witness, as to the existence of child abuse, is not admissible in the absence of any physical evidence of abuse. 347 Or 128, 142 (2009). Furthermore the *Southern* court asserted that when an expert's diagnosis fails to tell the jury anything that it cannot determine for itself, there is a great risk of prejudice because a expert's diagnosis asserts scientific reliability. *Id* at 140. Unlike *Southern*, in the defendant's case, the expert witness testified that the evidence on the victim was significant, and therefore the appeals court held that the rule announced in *Southern* is narrow, and not applicable here. In conclusion, the appeals court rejected the defendant's assertion that there was a plain error, and affirmed the trial court's decision.

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"Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both."

— Eleanor Roosevelt



# Resources and Announcements

## National Geographic Article Discusses Perspectives on Adolescent Brain Development

Focusing on the predisposition of adolescents to seek excitement and novelty and to engage in risk-taking behavior, this article will bring you up-to-date on the latest research and popular thinking on adolescent brain development. Access the article at: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/10/teenage-brains/dobbs-text>

## Pathways to Desistance

The Pathways to Desistance Study has collected the most comprehensive data set currently available about serious adolescent offenders and their lives in late adolescence and early adulthood. The key findings of the Study include:

- Most youth who commit felonies greatly reduce their offending over time;
- Longer stays in juvenile institutions do not reduce recidivism;
- In the period after incarceration, community-based supervision is effective for youth who have committed serious offenses, and
- Substance abuse treatment reduces both

substance use and criminal offending for a limited time.

Access the article about the study at: <https://ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/230971.pdf>

## Free Online Training on ICWA

Through the Safe & Equitable Foster Care Reduction Partnership, there are several hundred slots for DHS staff, attorneys, Judges, Tribes and community partners to take an on-line Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) course. This course is being offered as part of the Partnership's commitment to safely reduce disproportionality of American Indian/Alaskan Native children in foster care.

The course is designed to help staff involved in the out-of-home placement of American Indian children understand and comply with the ICWA so that each person has the same, accurate information about ICWA rules and cases. The course presents key provisions of ICWA, as well as recommended performance steps associated with effective practice for state, county, and tribal child welfare workers. In addition, the course gives general information about American Indian and Alaskan Native cultures. At the end of the course, there is a short test. When you pass the test, you will receive a Certificate of Completion.

The course, offered through the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), is accessed after completing a short internet survey. Once you complete the survey, you will be sent a login and password

directly from NICWA. Click here<<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ICWAOOnlineRegistration>> to complete the survey and register.

## Call for Nominations

The Oregon State Bar Juvenile Law Section Executive Committee is soliciting nominees for attorneys deserving of recognition that practice in the State of Oregon's Juvenile Courts. We know there are many outstanding attorneys that practice throughout our state who do not receive the recognition they deserve. We hope you will help us identify and recognize these lawyers. Please email nominations to [christine@christineherbert.com](mailto:christine@christineherbert.com), the Chairperson of the Juvenile Law Section Executive Committee, by January 9, 2012.

The three categories for awards are:

- New Practitioner Advocacy Award: recognizing an outstanding new Juvenile Court Lawyer in practice for fewer than 5 years.
- Advocacy Award: recognizing a Juvenile Court Lawyer who has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in advocacy for children and families.
- Professionalism Award: recognizing a Juvenile Court Lawyer who has demonstrated notable professionalism both in and out of court.

Along with your nomination please include a short statement describing the reasons explaining how your nominee is deserving of recognition. ●

## We Would Love to Hear From You

If you have any questions about who we are and what we do, please email Janeen Olsen at: [Janeen.O@youthrightsjustice.org](mailto:Janeen.O@youthrightsjustice.org).



"I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I want the full menu of rights. "

— Desmond Tutu

## What Kind of Car Do You Want?

Youth, Rights & Justice is looking into raffling off a car in 2012, with proceeds going to support its SchoolWorks program. What kind of car would you like to win?

Just email or call Janeen Olsen, our Development Director, at [janeen.o@youthrightsjustice.org](mailto:janeen.o@youthrightsjustice.org) or 503.232.2540 x231.

Janeen would also love to hear from you if you are interested in helping to sell tickets. Thanks!

# Youth, Rights & Justice

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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# Youth, Rights & Justice

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- Represent children in the juvenile court system
- Help vulnerable children succeed in school
- Provide information to the community
- Champion laws that benefit children and families
- Provide technical assistance to Oregon attorneys

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- Number of children served since 1975: 50,000+

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