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EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
FAMILY DIVISION - JUVENILE
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Ann L. Johnson
CLERK OF THE COURT

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's)
Request to be Assigned to Represent)
Children Upon Removal)
_____)

Administrative Order:
Juvenile Dependency

FINDINGS OF FACT AND ORDER

This matter having come before this Honorable Court upon the request of LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA for the issuance of an Administrative Order appointing LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA as attorney of record for all children upon removal as they enter the child welfare system, and the Court being duly advised in the premises, and good cause appearing,

THE COURT HEREBY FINDS that LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA is currently providing legal representation to over one-half of the children in the child welfare system, either through their staff attorneys with the Children's Attorneys Project or through pro bono (volunteer) attorneys with the Pro Bono Project

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA has communicated that it intends to represent children from the very earliest opportunity upon removal so as to be able to communicate the child's wishes to the court and parties at the earliest stages of the proceedings. LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA will begin by representing all children in new cases involving sexual abuse allegations and cases arising from the Central unit (zip codes 89101, 89102, 89104, 89106, and 89107. As LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA expands its ability to

1 represent more children from the very earliest opportunity to the DFS east, west, north, and
2 south regions, and the "5 and under" unit, it will so notify the Court, DFS, and the office of
3 the District Attorney of its intent to begin representing these children upon removal and will
4 begin requesting appointments in those regions pursuant to this order. Ad hoc referrals to
5 LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA of children in these units shall continue
6 until such time as the notice provided in this paragraph is given.
7

8 THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that NRS 432B.290 allows for the release of data or
9 information concerning abuse and neglect reports and investigations to any attorney appointed
10 to represent a child.
11

12 Accordingly,

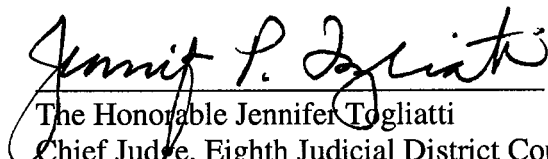
13 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN
14 NEVADA will be appointed to represent every child in all new cases involving sex abuse
15 allegations and in all cases assigned to the Central Unit of DFS (with zip codes 89101, 89102,
16 89104, 89106 and 89107). LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA will be given
17 notice of the child's removal at the earliest possible opportunity so that they may meet with
18 the client and be able to communicate their position to the Court. LEGAL AID CENTER OF
19 SOUTHERN NEVADA will be given electronic reports when e-filed by the Department of
20 Family Services and in writing prior to the first PPH hearing on every child.
21

22 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT on each case where LEGAL AID CENTER OF
23 SOUTHERN NEVADA is appointed pursuant to this Order, the attorney, when appearing at
24 the initial hearing, will indicate that they are appearing pursuant to this Administrative Order.
25 After the initial hearing, LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA will perform a
26 conflict check and assign a specific attorney to the case, either a staff or pro bono attorney.
27 That attorney will enter a specific Notice of Appearance.
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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA will be appointed to represent every child in all new cases involving other units (East, West, North, South, Under 5) upon notification to the Court, DFS, and the office of the District Attorney of its intent to begin representing these children upon removal. In these cases, LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA will be given notice of the child's removal at the earliest possible opportunity so that they may meet with the client and be able to communicate their position to the court. LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA will be given electronic reports when e-filed by the Department of Family Services and in writing prior to the first PPH hearing on every child. Ad hoc referrals to LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA of children in these units shall continue until such time as the notice provided in this paragraph is given.

Dated this 6th day of March, 2014.


The Honorable Jennifer Togliatti
Chief Judge, Eighth Judicial District Court