



CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROJECT FACT SHEET

What is the Children's Justice Project (CJP)?

The mission of the Wyoming Children's Justice Project is to improve outcomes for abused and/or neglected children involved in the court system. CJP was established in 1999 as a project of the Wyoming Supreme Court. The Chief Justice appoints an advisory council to set policy and oversee CJP work. The project is funded by federal court improvement grants administered by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The federal grant program was established in 1994 as a response to the dramatic increase in child abuse and neglect cases and the expanded role of courts in achieving stable and permanent homes for children in foster care. All 50 states receive federal court improvement grant funding.

CJP Goals: To ensure that proceedings related to child abuse and neglect promote: (1) due process of law; (2) timely, thorough and complete court hearings; (3) high quality legal representation to parents and children, both in and out of court, in an ongoing fashion; and (4) engagement of the entire family in court processes relating to child welfare, family preservation, family reunification and adoption.

CJP Ongoing / Future Initiatives

- Annual Children's Justice Conference
- Monthly BlogTalkRadio trainings
- Targeted community trainings
- Development of CJP publications, handbooks and training materials for parents, guardians, children, educators, attorneys and judges
- Judge and attorney scholarships to national conferences and trainings
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) activities, including the monitoring of timeliness and quality indicators
- Court observations projects
- Enhancements to and trainings on juvenile case components in WyUser

The *CJP Strategic Plan* can be viewed at: <http://www.courts.state.wy.us/Initiatives/CJP>

CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROJECT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hon. William Hill, Chair | Steve Corsi, Department of Family Services (DFS) Director | Sheryl Bunting, Dep. County Attorney | Hon. Steven Cranfill, District Judge | Hon. Floyd Esquibel, State Senator | Hon. Mary Throne, State Representative | Hon. John Fenn, District Judge | Hon. Nena James, District Judge | Jill Kucera, Attorney General's Office | Kristie Langley, DFS | Dan Wilde, Guardian *Ad Litem* Program | Lily Sharpe, Supreme Court Administrator | Michelle Heinen, Parent Advocate | Dona Playton, Parents' Attorney | Carol Tullio, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) | Miquel Reyes, Child Advocate | Ryan Roden, Public Defender's Office | Bill Stanton, Casey Family Programs | Stephen Weichman, County Attorney | Hon. Norman Young, District Judge | Laura Steele, District Court Clerk | Terri Smith, Attorney/Tribal Representative

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