

Keeping Current

A monthly newsletter for CCAN attorneys | Published by DC's Children's Law Center | December 2012

D.C. Court of Appeals

In re P.B., D.B., & T.B. (Nos. 10-FS-1590, 10-FS-1591, & 10-FS-1592) - Decided August 23, 2012, and available at: <http://tiny.cc/504jow>. The opinion affirms the trial court's ruling that there was sufficient evidence to support a finding of neglect within the meaning of D.C. Code § 16-2301 (9)(A) (ii) and (iii). The opinion contains a discussion about the fact that even though there was relatively little evidence of the conditions on the day in which the children were removed, the years' worth of evidence presented to the trial court established a pattern of neglect. Although the record contained little direct evidence of neglect specific to the youngest of the three respondents, the trial court properly relied on extensive evidence of a pattern of neglect of the older siblings, the lack of evidence that the mother treated the infant any differently, as well evidence of the mother's mental instability that would have affected her ability to parent all the children, in finding the infant to be neglected.

Upcoming Oral Arguments

Wednesday, December 5, 2012, 9:30am

12-FM-0342—Edward Mathis v. Sakeisa Lewis

Tuesday, December 18, 2012, 9:30am

12-FS-0688—In Re: Petition of J.F. & M.R.M; W.J., appellant

12-FS-0689—In Re: Petition of J.F. & M.R.M; W.J., appellant

12-FS-0733—In Re: Petition of J.F. & M.R.M; S.R.S., appellant

12-FS-0734—In Re: Petition of J.F. & M.R.M; S.R.S., appellant

Wednesday, December 19, 2012, 9:30am

12-FS-0718—In Re: Petition of J.C.F. & H.A.Z.; J.A.C., appellant

12-FS-1157—In Re: Petition of J.C.F. & H.A.Z.; J.A.C., appellant

About This Publication

Keeping Current is a compilation of relevant news and information, including trainings and events. The materials referenced in *Keeping Current* are intended to be additional resources for consideration by members of the CCAN community, and Children's Law Center cannot verify the quality of all the materials or events referenced herein. CCAN attorneys should conduct their own independent research when reviewing these materials, and should review the weekly CCAN e-mail for current information. Please contact [Tomar Nicole Brown](#), Training Co-Ordinator, with comments or suggestions. *Keeping Current* is also posted on the Family Law page of ProBono.net/dc and www.childrenslawcenter.org.

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Upcoming Oral Arguments (cont.)

Thursday, December 20, 2012

12-FS-0480—In Re Petition of B.H.; T.T., appellant

12-FS-0481—In Re Petition of B.H.; T.T., appellant

12-FS-0482—In Re Petition of B.H.; D.L.T., appellant

12-FS-0483—In Re Petition of B.H.; D.L.T., appellant

Children in the News

DC Children and Youth

Gay parents, kids participate in ‘Adoption Day’ (Washington Blade) Heartwarming article about some of the new families celebrated at Adoption Day 2012. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/bv7jow>

Teen Moms Tell it Like it is (Washington Post) Columnist John Kelly highlights the Healthy Generations program for teen mothers at Children's National Medical Center. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/b4pjow>

D.C. Housing Waiting List Offers Little More Than Hope (Washington Post) This article discusses the DCHA waitlist. Available At: <http://tiny.cc/spujow>

D.C. youth agency transfers teen who sought to report ‘terrible things’ (The Washington Times) DYRS allegedly transferred one of their youth out of state after he shared information about another ward who confessed to shooting a DYRS administrator. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/s0ujow>

Sexual assault cases renew D.C. DYRS issues (The Washington Times) A D.C. ward is charged with two sexual assaults, just as another ward pleads guilty in a separate sexual assault. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/3t8jow>

National Child Welfare Issues

Agencies Work to Unite Foster and Biological Parents (Huffington Post) Several states urge foster and birth parents to work together while a child is in foster care to facilitate reunification or at least maintain connection. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/4orjow>

Most States Made Little Progress in Getting Kids Health Coverage (MedPage Today) The number of uninsured children in the U.S. fell to 5.5 million last year from 6.4 million 2 years before, yet 30 states saw no significant change in their rate of coverage, a Georgetown University report showed. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/w0rjow> A PDF of the full report and a video summarizing the findings available at: <http://tiny.cc/rzrjow>

Awareness, Enforcement Help Reduce Child Sex Abuse (Associated Press) Despite high profile stories, child sex abuse is down, thanks to public awareness and law enforcement. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/jdsjow>

Cannabis Oil Pills Helped Child Go Into Cancer Remission, Mom Says (ABC News) This article examines the controversy surrounding the use of medical marijuana to treat sick children. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/hmsjow>

National Child Welfare Issues (cont.)

Judge Orders Return of US-born Children to Their Deported Father (Washington Post) Judge orders three children be returned to their deported father in Mexico, since their mother has a mental illness that prevents her from caring for them on her own. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/q2elow>

Education News

D.C. Area Schools

Why not a Jefferson High for Poor Kids? (Washington Post) Columnist Jay Matthews discusses the possibility of a rigorous curriculum public school for low-income D.C. students. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/8rtjow>

Teachers Who Have Not Met 'Highly Qualified' Definition (Huffington Post) As part of No Child Left Behind, DCPS lets parents know when teachers are not considered "highly qualified" in the subject they teach. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/247jow>

DCPS Refers Nearly 100 Students to Child Protective Services (Washington Examiner) This article discusses a "culture shift" within DC Public Schools on truancy, as the school system in the past largely ignored the city law that requires them to alert the Child and Family Services Agency when an elementary or middle school student is truant. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/628jow>

Federal Oversight to end for District's Special-ed School Buses (Washington Post) A federal judge has agreed to let the District regain control of its special education school buses after 17 years of federal supervision. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/sd9jow>. However, **Forgotten-Child Incident in D.C. Highlights Special-Ed Busing Concerns** (Washington Post) Follow up on the story about a 4-year-old special education student who was forgotten on his bus all day. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/mqelow>

20 D.C. schools targeted for closure (Washington Post) One in six traditional D.C. public schools is targeted for closure under a plan put forth by Chancellor Kaya Henderson. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/nbakow>

D.C. Graduation Rates are Worst in the Nation (Washington Times) The nation's capital had the worst four-year high school graduation rate in the country in 2010-2011, a finding that suggests the city has more work to do to reform its historically troubled school system. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/yxilow>

D.C. Public Schools Help Launch 'One Million Kids' Anti-Bullying Campaign (Huffington Post) Article discussing the events involved in the campaign at: <http://tiny.cc/15jlow>

Mental Health News

Autism Programs Work Better When Started Early (MedPagetoday.com) Intensive behavior programs for autism spectrum disorders were moderately effective at improving core deficits, particularly when started shortly after diagnosis, a systematic review found Available at: <http://tiny.cc/7a8jow>

Reports and Publications

Child Welfare Practice

2012 Child Welfare Enacted Legislation Database (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2012) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/5ynlow>

Making Healthy Choices: A Guide on Psychotropic Medications for Youth in Foster Care – Now Available in Spanish (National Resource Center for Youth Development) This guide, written specifically for youth in foster care with input from youth and professionals, looks at ways to handle powerful feelings and behaviors and make healthy choices. The guide includes useful information, questions to ask, worksheets, and tips on: recognizing you need help; knowing your rights about your health and who can help you make decisions; considering your options, including helpful approaches other than medication; making decisions about how best to stay healthy; and, maintaining treatment (taking medication safely and continuing or stopping treatment after leaving foster care). Available at: <http://tiny.cc/3fpow>

Older Youth in Foster Care

Permanency Planning Toolkit: A Framework for Serving Older Youth in Care (Copia Consulting-Texas CASA, 2012) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/t0nlow>

Reevaluating the Government's Role in Parenting Older Foster Care Youth: An Analysis of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Day, Angelique. Preston, Maribeth, 2012) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/z2nlow>

Parents in Child Welfare

A Healthy Beginning: Important Information For Parents of Internationally Adopted Children (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2012) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/o5nlow>

Special Education

Keeping Irreplaceables in D.C. Public Schools (TNTP) TNTP, a national nonprofit committed to ending the injustice of educational inequality, release a new case study, *Keeping Irreplaceables in D.C. Public Schools*. The study provides an in-depth look at teacher retention strategies and how they're playing out in District of Columbia Public Schools. The paper explains how DCPS has moved toward smarter teacher retention, mainly by raising expectations and removing consistently low-performing teachers. The report also shows that DPCS is missing some opportunities to make even more progress. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/dx9jow>

Don't forget about Children's Law Center's Helpline!

Our **Helpline** provides CCAN attorneys with legal information and advice.

- *Staffed by CLC attorneys*
- *Confidential*
- *Legal information and assistance on general and case-specific topics, such as help identifying resources and services, sample pleadings, and other materials*
- *All Helpline calls are screened to identify potential conflicts of interest*

Call (202) 467-4900 (Option 3) — Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Promoting Suicide Prevention among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Youth

Monday, December 10, 2012, 3:00-4:30 PM EST

*This webinar, sponsored by the Technical Assistance Partnership for Child and Family Mental Health, will discuss issues related to suicide and self-harming behavior among LGBT youth. Presenters will share information, strategies, and resources from (1) *Improving Emotional & Behavioral Outcomes for LGBT Youth: A Guide for Professionals*, a recently published book covering research-based recommendations and practices; (2) SAMHSA's Suicide Prevention Branch; and (3) The Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org), the nation's leading organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBT youth. Presenters will share their expertise and recommendations for how YOU can enhance the well-being of LGBT youth. More information available at: <http://tiny.cc/j6plow>*

Save the Date

Children's Law Center CCAN Special Education Training

Tuesday, December 18, 2012 from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. — D.C. Superior Court, Family Conference Room

Stay tuned for more details about the agenda for this half-day special education training offered by Children's Law Center for interested members of all CCAN panels.

"Positive Outcomes for At-Risk Children and Youth: Improving Lives Through Practice and System Reform"

Thursday, January 24, 2012 — Friday, January 25, 2012 — Georgetown University Campus Conference Center

This inspirational two-day conference will focus on improving outcomes for at-risk children and youth. The conference will discuss this issue from local, state, and national standpoints and will highlight various subject areas, such as education, employment and job training, physical and behavioral health, social development, child welfare, and juvenile justice. The conference will emphasize the value of early intervention, while also underscoring that it is never too late to help a child or family. More information available at: <http://tiny.cc/6aqlow>