

Keeping Current

A monthly newsletter for CCAN attorneys | Published by DC's Children's Law Center | January 2013

D.C. Court of Appeals

Upcoming Oral Arguments

Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 9:30am

Argument at the David A. Clarke School of Law

11-FM-1233 – Ramon Estopina v. Susan O'Brian

Thursday, January 29, 2013, 9:30am

11-FS-1549 – In Re: NA.H; N.H.

Thursday, January 31, 2013, 9:30am

11-FM-0918 – William A. Wilson v. Francesca Craig

Friday, January 18, 2013, 10:00am

11-FS-1217 – In Re: Petition of R.W. & A.W.; T.L

11-FS-1218 – In Re: Petition of R.W. & A.W.; T.L

11-FS-1255 – In Re: T.A.L.; A.H.

11-FS-1256 – In Re: A.L.; A.H.

11-FS-1257 – In Re: Petition of R.W. & A.W.; A.H.

11-FS-1258 – In Re: Petition of R.W. & A.W.; A.H.

11-FS-1259 – In Re: Petition of E.A.; A.H., et al

11-FS-1260 – In Re: Petition of E.A.; A.H., et al

Legal News

Case Pits Adoptive Parents Against Tribal Rights (The New York Times). An interesting article on the impact of The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, which requires tribal courts to make certain custody decisions traditionally governed by state law. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/wg9tpw>.

Senate Passes Adoption Legislation Before Holiday Break (Huffington Post) The Senate passed both the Inter-country Adoption Universal Accreditation Act and a resolution supporting the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/j5eupw>.

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 Brown](#), Training Coordinator, with comments or suggestions. *Keeping Current* is also posted on the Family Law page of ProBono.net/dc and www.childrenslawcenter.org.

In This Issue

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| D.C. Courts | 1 |
| Legal News | 1 |
| Children in the News | 2 |
| Reports / Publications | 3 |
| Upcoming Events | 4 |
| Save the Date | 4 |

Baucus Bill Works to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect (Senate Committee on Finance) Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) introduced legislation that would develop a national strategy for reducing child deaths resulting from abuse and neglect. The Protect Our Kids Act, which is co-sponsored by Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), Ben Cardin (D-M.D.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) and Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), would create a special task force to study and evaluate federal, state and private child welfare systems and provide policy recommendations to prevent child maltreatment. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/zveupw>

Children in the News

DC Children and Youth

Judge Dismisses D.C. Special Education Busing Case (Washington Post) A federal judge dismissed the 17-year lawsuit over the transportation of D.C. special education students, giving the city final approval to control its own school buses, marking a milestone for the D.C. government and Mayor Vincent C. Gray. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/8oaupw>. The Legal Times covers the same event, available at: <http://tiny.cc/luaupw>

Teen Parents Enjoy Free Daycare (Washington Examiner) Free day care for students at area high schools. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/z3dupw>

Disarray at D.C. Youth Agency is Endemic, Records Say (Washington Times) According to this article, because of high staff turnover, not enough money has gone to substance abuse treatment, counseling, and employment grants. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/geeupw>

D.C. Schools Lose Millions on Meals Program (The Washington Post) Taxpayers in the District have subsidized a public schools meals program that lost more than \$10 million a year since it was outsourced to save money in 2008, according to an independent audit commissioned by the school system. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/3cfupw>

Progress in D.C. Child Welfare Agency, Monitor Finds (The Washington Post) The District's child welfare agency has made significant progress in recent months and is closer than any time in the past two decades to escaping federal court oversight, an independent monitor has found. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/lxgupw>

National Child Welfare Issues

Teenagers and the Morning After Pill (New York Times) The American Academy of Pediatrics, the nation's leading pediatrics organization, is encouraging doctors to also talk to teenagers about the morning-after pill — and to send girls home with prescriptions for emergency contraception. Available at <http://tiny.cc/86bupw>

Montgomery County Focusing on Education of Foster Kids (gazette.net) Montgomery County Public Schools will work with Child Welfare Services and Seattle-based Casey Family Programs, a foundation that provides consulting and training in welfare services, to see that educational outcomes for students in foster care improve, said Ursula Hermann, director of student services for MCPS. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/woeupw>

Child Mental Health

Sandy Hook Mental Health: Program Gaps May be Easier to Fix Than Gun Laws (Huffington Post) Jason Cherkis' Op-ED on mental health, mentions Youth Villages program in DC. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/7gaupw>

Education News

D.C. Charter Schools Eye City's First Pre-K-12 Language Immersion (Washington Examiner) Four DC charters join together for pre-K to 12 language immersion. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/qabupw>

Top 10 Education Policy Wishes (Washington Post) Blog discusses education policies with a focus on poverty. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/oqdupw>

Reports and Publications

Child Welfare Practice

Toolkit on Court-Involved Youth and Exposure to Violence (Safe Start Center) The National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence found that 60 percent of children surveyed had been exposed to violence. Researchers have labeled children who have experienced seven or more types of victimization as "polyvictims". For many of these children, this exposure can have both short and long-term effects. This toolkit is to aid legal professionals and advocates in helping children cope and heal. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ifdupw>

Child Maltreatment 2011 (Children's Bureau) Most current National and State statistics on child abuse and neglect shows a steady decline in the number of victims for the fifth consecutive year. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/urfupw>

Engaging Families in Case Planning (Child Welfare Information Gateway) Discusses the importance of involving families in case planning and provides strategies for caseworkers and agencies that can encourage and support family engagement. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/dufupw>

NRCPCF Webpage on Federal Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program State Policies and Laws (National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections) The Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance program is a formula grant that helps States, Indian Tribes, Tribal Organizations and Tribal Consortia who opt to provide guardianship assistance payments for the care of children by relatives who have assumed legal guardianship of eligible children for whom they previously cared as foster parents. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/msgupw>

An Analysis of State Laws Regarding Mandated Reporting of Child Maltreatment (State Policy Advocacy and Reform Center) SPARC policy brief provides an overview of how different states have approached universal mandated child maltreatment reporting policies, some considerations for reporting statutes in general, and various themes from interviews SPARC conducted with state administrators. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/adhupw>

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

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>

Save the Date

University of Baltimore School of Law — Center for Families, Children, and the Courts

5th Annual Urban Child Symposium

Thursday, April 4, 2013

More information available at: <http://tiny.cc/uciupw>