

Keeping Current

A monthly newsletter for CCAN attorneys | Published by D.C.'s Children's Law Center | March 2013

D.C. Court of Appeals

Upcoming Oral Arguments

Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 9:30am

11-FS-1598—In Re: H.B.

Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 9:30am

12-FS-1198—In Re: Petition of C.G.H.

12-FS-1371—In Re: Petition of C.G.H.

In Re D.S. (No. 10-FS-1556) *On Petition for Rehearing* - Decided February 21, 2013; Available at www.dccourts.gov/internet/documents/10-FS-1556.pdf. The court of appeals granted the government's petition for rehearing to clarify and affirm its finding in *In re D.S.*, 52 A.3d 887 (D.C. 2012) that the clear and convincing evidentiary standard must be applied when attempting to rebut the parental presumption.

Child Welfare News

National Issues

Do Abandoned Children Have the Right to Know Their Origins? (Salon) It has become common practice in the United States for governments to provide baby boxes or "safe surrender" sites, usually near hospitals, where mothers or relatives of unwanted newborns may abandon them anonymously, so that they may be cared for by others and eventually adopted. Such programs are intended to prevent infanticide and deaths from infant abandonment and have succeeded in doing so around the world. Despite this success, the United Nations has called the provision of baby boxes into question. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ck34sw>

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.

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.Deportation's Forgotten Children (L.A. Times) The Help Separated Families Act will help end the suffering that leaves many families torn apart and brings children into foster care, two representatives from the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth explain. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/p814sw>

Adoptive Mom's 'Newborn' Photo Shoot with 13-Year-Old Son Goes Viral (Today.com) Adoptive parent of a teen age son takes an innovative approach to making her new son feel a part of the family. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/vf24sw>

The Benefits of Positive Parenting (N.Y. Times) With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a parenting system called the Triple P - Positive Parenting Program, which was developed at the University of Queensland, Australia, was tested in nine counties across the state. Eighteen counties were randomly selected to receive either a broad dissemination of Triple P's program or services as usual. The results were both highly promising and troubling. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ln24sw>

The Future Of Adoption: International And Domestic (NPR) Russia, Guatemala, and more are slamming the door on American adoptions. Is the great age of international adoption behind us? Podcast available at: <http://tiny.cc/8o34sw>

Does School Reform Contribute to Inequity for Low-Income and Minority Students? (Washington Post) Many critics of modern school reform say that while reform efforts are intended to close achievement gaps and provide equitable educational experiences for all students, they are having the opposite effect. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ns34sw>

D.C. Children and Youth

Child Welfare Agency to Provide Deaf Clients with Technology, Interpreters (Washington Post) The District's child welfare agency has agreed to provide deaf clients with technology for making phone calls and sign-language interpreters during home visits and interviews with foster or adoptive parents. The agreement came as part of a settlement with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Civil Rights, which determined that the child welfare agency had failed to provide an interpreter for a deaf client and family members during an adoption proceeding in 2007. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/yt44sw>

D.C. Child-Care Providers Threatened by Stagnant Subsidies for Poor Kids (Washington Post) In a city where infant and toddler care can cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year, the District has not changed the reimbursement rate it pays to child-care providers to care for and educate the children of needy families since 2004. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/4y44sw>.

Missing D.C. 6-Year-Old Found (Washington Examiner) Young girl found with mother in Arkansas will be returned to her father, who has custody. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/io54sw>

Number of Kids in D.C. and Area Foster Care Dropping (Washington Examiner) Columnist relates the decreased number of children in foster homes to government efforts to keep kids out of the system. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/9h54sw>

Courtney's House on a Mission to Help Child Sex Trafficking Victims in D.C. (WTOP) This article highlights Courtney's House, a local non-profit which helps child sex trafficking victims. Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/bzvf2xe>

D.C. General Holds 600 Homeless Children, Often Without Heat, Hot Water, Cribs (Huffington Post) This article examines the challenging conditions at D.C. General; which often require the intervention of legal services attorneys to address. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/g054sw>. Two related opinion pieces; **D.C. Children in Shelter Must Get Real Homes** (Washington Post) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/b364sw>; and **For D.C. Shelter's 600 Homeless Children, A Crucial Source of Fun and Escape** (Washington Post) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/1864sw>

Tougher D.C. Anti-Truancy Bill Assailed by Gray Officials (Washington Post) Gray administration officials, district families and child advocates implore D.C. council to reconsider [truancy bill](#), describing it as an overly harsh approach to a complex problem. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ff64sw>. Two additional perspectives; **D.C. Mayor's Office Opposes David Catania's Truancy Bill** (Washington Examiner) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/1m64sw>; and **D.C. Council Mulls Jailing Parents for Children's Truancy** (WTOP) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/5p64sw>

Children's Dental Health Still Lacking (Politico.com) Children's dental coverage is considered an "essential health benefit" under the law. But the way it's likely to be offered — through separate dental policies with no penalties for parents who don't get them — has dentists and child health advocates worried. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/3s64sw>

District Unveils Policy to Prevent Bullying In and Out of Schools (Washington Post) Urban researchers recently released an innovative, cross-agency bullying prevention policy, developed in partnership with the [D.C. Mayor's Youth Bullying Prevention Task Force](#), [D.C. Office of Human Rights](#), and [AmericaSpeaks](#). The policy employs a prevention-oriented public health model to tackle bullying, which not only addresses the needs of victims, but also those of bullies and witnesses. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/4d74sw>
[Read the bullying prevention plan here.](#)

D.C. Reforms Offer Some Kids New Beginning (Youth Today) This article offers a perspective on the work of New Beginnings and D.C. DYRS. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/wx74sw>

Education News

In first annual report, Raise D.C. offers snapshot of D.C. youth (Washington Post) Sobering statistics are part of a snapshot of D.C. youths released by [Raise D.C.](#), a coalition of public, private and nonprofit groups Mayor Vincent C. Gray (D) [convened last year](#) with the aim of improving the lives of the District's neediest residents from birth through age 24. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/26c5sw>. A copy of the report can be found here: <http://raisedc.net/latest-news.html>

Capitol Hill education consultant helps parents navigate D.C. school choice (Washington Post) Local mom's consulting business helps some parents navigate (mostly public) school choice. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/o3c5sw>

Education panel: To Close Achievement Gap, Urgent State, Federal Action Needed (Washington Post) Report from a panel of experts on closing the achievement gap. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/jhb5sw>

Catania Aims to End 'Social Promotion' in D.C. Schools (Washington Post) D.C. Councilmember David Catania will introduce bill allowing schools more opportunities to hold students back, ending "social promotion." Available at: <http://tiny.cc/4rb5sw>

D.C. will invest more in schools next year, Gray says (Washington Post) D.C. Mayor Vincent C. Gray (D) wants to give the city's schools more money next year. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/apc5sw>

D.C. School Officials Propose Changes (The Afro) This article chronicles school reforms, graduation requirements, and school closures. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/4j94sw>

D.C. Charter School Enrollment Outpaces that of DCPS (Washington Post) The District's public charter schools are growing far faster than the traditional school system, according to audited enrollment figures released Wednesday by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/cp94sw>. An additional perspective, **More Students Attending D.C. Public Schools** (Washington Examiner), available at: <http://tiny.cc/g094sw>

D.C. Debates Growth of Charter Schools (Washington Post) **Rocketship Education out of California has proposed opening eight charter schools in D.C.** Available at: <http://tiny.cc/kca5sw>

No More Invisible Children Under No Child Left Behind Waivers (Washington Post) This opinion piece argues that No Child Left Behind Waivers allow schools with several small minority populations to combine those groups in reporting, meaning no more "invisible" children. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/t694sw>

Existing Charters Pay to Lease and Renovate Vacant School Space (Washington Examiner) DCPS's failure to turn vacated school buildings around quickly and make them available to charter schools has long been a criticism from charter school advocates. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/p4a5sw>

Study Shows Significant Midyear Turnover Among D.C. Students (Washington Post) Thousands of students move in and out of the District's traditional and charter schools during the middle of the academic year, according to a new report. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/bdb5sw>

D.C. and Maryland fall behind in Race to the Top progress (Washington Post) Race to the Top is the \$4 billion federal grant initiative to improve education. But of the twelve jurisdictions the received funds two local ones — D.C. and Maryland — are not making the progress they promised they would. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/gtc5sw>

Mental Health News

Effects of Bullying Last Into Adulthood, Study Finds (N.Y. Times) Now researchers have found that elevated risk of psychiatric trouble for victims of bullying, and bullies themselves, extends into adulthood -sometimes even a decade after the intimidation has ended. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/7k24sw>. Another perspective, **Bullying Scars the Adult Mind** (Medpage Today), discusses the psychiatric implications of bullying. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/m484sw>

Impending rules will guide equality for mental health (USA Today) This article discusses mental health parity and how witnessing violence can cause mental health concerns for children. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ua94sw>

Tots Affected by Parents' Moods, Violence (Medpage Today) Even in preschool children, exposure to violence between their parents and to parental depression is associated with an increased risk of psychological issues, researchers reported. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/ew84sw>

Reports and Publications

The 5 C's of Engaging Birth Families in the Reunification Process (Buckner Children and Family Services) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/5te5sw>

NRCPFC Information Packet: Bullying and Children in the Child Welfare System (National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/hwe5sw>

Increasing Family Engagement in Early Childhood Programs (Young Children) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/2xe5sw>

Child Well-Being and Noncustodial Fathers (Congressional Research Service) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/qze5sw>

National Baby Facts (zerotothree.org) There are more than 12 million infants and toddlers in the United States, many spending their most vulnerable years in circumstances that place them at risk developmentally. Many fall behind their peers even before they enter a prekindergarten classroom. National Baby Facts, ZERO TO THREE's recent release, tells the story of how these youngest children in the United States are faring. National Baby Facts gives you the facts on the invaluable supports and services—whether it's adequate health care, ample food, housing security, or positive early learning opportunities—that play a crucial role in nurturing a young child's development and helping all children realize their potential. This resource is available on the ZERO TO THREE website. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/7df5sw>

Promising Strategies and Existing Gaps in Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Teens Summary of Expert Panel Workgroup Meetings (Department of Health and Human Services) This report, which outlines challenges and promising practices in supporting pregnant and parenting teens and summarizes the discussions and suggestions of national experts in the field. Specifically, this report highlights the findings of two expert workgroups convened in January and July 2012 through the support of OAH's Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF), which provides competitive grants to state and tribal organizations that support pregnant and parenting teens and their families. The experts were asked to describe "what works" when it comes to serving pregnant and parenting teens and to identify the gaps and challenges that persist in the field as well as opportunities to support this vulnerable population. The report summarizes: promising practices in reaching, engaging and retaining pregnant and parenting teens; effective program components when working with pregnant and parenting teens; and, concrete examples for implementing those core components. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/thf5sw>

The Uninterrupted Scholars Act: How Do Recent Changes To FERPA Help Child Welfare Agencies Get Access To School Records? (American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law) Available at <http://tiny.cc/aqf5sw>

Informal Kinship Care Most Common Out-of-Home Placement After an Investigation of Child Maltreatment (Carsey Institute) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/trf5sw>

Trauma-Informed Practice with Children and Youth in the Child Welfare System [Webcast] (National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections) Available at: <http://tiny.cc/wsf5sw>

Bullying and the Child Welfare System (NRCPFC) This recently revised resource from the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections provides information and statistics on bullying, including cyber bullying and bullying pertaining to LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning) youth. It explores characteristics of individuals who bully and are being bullied, and explains why bullying is an important and relevant topic in child welfare. It describes things parents, caregivers, child welfare staff, and other professionals working with youth can do to prevent bullying and/or to intervene effectively when bullying is taking place. Additional resources are also provided. Available at: <http://tiny.cc/00f5sw>

Upcoming Events

Electronic Evidence in Family Law: Perry Mason Goes Digital

Tuesday, March 5, 2013 from 12:30 pm to 1:30pm

D.C. Superior Court, 500 Indiana Avenue NW, Room 6405

What can a forensic technologist retrieve from cell phones and computers? What happens if your client used spyware – or was the victim of its use? Is it permissible to put a global positioning device (GPS) on the car of a spouse? Hear from expert Sharon Nelson, Esq. on these issues and come prepared with your own questions about how to legally procure and use electronic evidence in family law cases, such as divorce, custody, domestic violence, and more. This is a free event, but registration is required. Contact the D.C. Bar Sections Office at: 202-626-3463

Transgender and Gender Variant Youth

Friday, March 8, 2013 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm

D.C. Superior Court, 500 Indiana Avenue NW, Juror's Lounge

This training, a follow up to the D.C. Superior Court's Annual Fall Training on LGBTQ youth, promises to provide participants with information and resources that will assist them in working with transgender and gender variant court involved youth. Please plan to join an impressive panel of local community leaders for what promises to be a very informative session. This is a free event, no registration required.

Annual Neglect and Delinquency Practice Institute (NDPI)

Monday, March 11 & Tuesday, March 12, 2013

UDC David A. Clarke School of Law, 4200 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, D.C. 20008

Registration forms for the annual Neglect and Delinquency Practice Institute (NDPI) are available at the CCAN Office. Online registration available at the Bar Association of D.C. website. This year's NDPI will include juvenile delinquency and special education sessions, along with neglect sessions.

2013 District of Columbia Judicial and Bar Conference – Poverty Law in the Court of Appeals

Friday, April 19, 2013, 8:30 am to 8:00pm

International Trade Center/Ronald Reagan, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington D.C. 20004

This joint conference of the D.C. courts and the D.C. Bar is an opportunity for judges, practitioners, and other members in the profession to gather and discuss topics of particular interest to the community. The full conference ticket option entitles you to a full day of quality programming, including a plenary panel, a keynote luncheon, seminar programs, a membership forum, networking breaks, and a closing reception honoring members of the judiciary in the District of Columbia. For more information and to register for the conference, visit: <http://www.dcb.org/conference/index.cfm>.

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.

2013 Certificate Programs at the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute recently announced its 2013 Certificate Programs. In addition to the weeklong certificate programs in multi-systems integration, CJJR now offers shorter certificate programs of intensive study in information sharing, youth in custody, and reducing racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice. CJJR programs target public and private sector leaders working in the juvenile justice, child welfare, judiciary, behavioral health, education and other systems that serve youth in, or at-risk of becoming involved in, the juvenile justice system. Certificate programs at CJJR take a multi-systems and multi-disciplinary approach to policies, programs, and practices that improve outcomes for this population -- including a focus on "crossover youth". Participants apply the knowledge they gain by completing a capstone project—a practical reform agenda they implement in their organization or community for positive change. Applicants from the same jurisdiction should apply as teams to enhance cross systems change efforts after returning from the program. Individuals are also welcome in most programs. Programs include:
Multi-System Integration Certificate Program: June 21-28, 2013 (applications due March 28, 2013) and October 23-30, 2013 (priority application deadline is March 28, 2013)

Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Certificate Program: September 23-27, 2013 (applications due April 23, 2013)

Youth in Custody Certificate Program: August 19-23, 2013 (applications due April 23, 2013)

Application information available at: <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu>

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>