



State of Kansas

Office of Judicial Administration

Kansas Judicial Center
301 SW 10th
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507

(785) 296-2256

House Children and Seniors Committee
Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mark Gleeson, Director of Trial Court Programs, Office of Judicial Administration

Overview of the Kansas Code for the Care of Children

Thank you for the opportunity to provide what is a very general overview regarding the legal process required by the Kansas Code for the Care of Children – otherwise referred to as the Child In Need of Care, or CINC, Code. The Kansas Code for the Care of Children incorporates requirements of the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA).

My name is Mark Gleeson. I am the Director of Trial Court Programs for the Kansas Office of Judicial Administration. Although I have over 33 years experience working in the Judicial Branch on behalf of children and families, I am very pleased to have the real experts in the field with me today to talk about what happens from the time a CINC case is referred to the prosecutor to the time when a child returns home or is placed for adoption. Those experts are:

- Hon. Dan Cahill, Wyandotte County District Judge, who will begin the presentation. Judge Cahill's caseload is made up almost entirely of Child in Need of Care cases, and he is the chairperson of the Kansas Supreme Court's Permanency Planning Task Force.
- Don Hymer, a Johnson County Assistant District Attorney, is considered an expert on CINC matters and has conducted numerous Continuing Legal Education seminars on the subject.
- Bethany Roberts is an attorney with Kansas Legal Services and serves as both a guardian *ad litem* and as a parents' attorney in the Douglas County District Court.

You have two handouts today from the Office of Judicial Administration. The booklet is the Kansas Code for the Care of Children, which includes statutory amendments from the 2012 legislative session. We publish this booklet each year and distribute it to CASA (court appointed special advocate) and CRB (citizen review board) volunteers, DCF (Department for Children and Families) workers, and others. The other handout is a selection of seven flow charts and accompanying notes taken from a highly detailed analysis of the CINC process. I can provide you with an electronic version of the complete process analysis if you are interested. However, it is very detailed and would not be useful for today's presentation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share this information.