

SUPREME COURT OF OKLAHOMA

Creation of the Task Force on the Uniform Representation of Children and Parents in Cases Involving Abuse and Neglect

2019 OK 53 · Decided July 22, 2019

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Oklahoma established a Task Force on the Uniform Representation of Children and Parents in abuse and neglect cases. The order specifies the Task Force's duties, membership, meeting schedule, reimbursement provisions, and deadlines for interim and final reports.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Oklahoma
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Chief Justice Gurich; Vice Chief Justice Darby; Justice Winchester; Justice Edmondson; Justice Colbert; Justice Combs
JURISDICTION	Oklahoma
DECIDED	July 22, 2019
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Administrative order of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma establishing a task force and appointing its members.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Administrative order establishing a Supreme Court task force; no adjudication of a private dispute.

TOPICS

family law procedure parental rights family law civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

family law juvenile law court administration

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Supreme Court of Oklahoma should establish a task force under its general administrative authority to develop recommendations concerning uniform representation of children and parents in abuse-and-neglect cases.

2. Which individuals and organizations should be appointed as voting and non-voting members of the task force and what assignments and reporting deadlines should govern its work.

HOLDINGS

1. Pursuant to its general administrative authority and in order to implement SCAD-2014-06, the Supreme Court of Oklahoma established the Task Force on the Uniform Representation of Children and Parents in Cases Involving Abuse and Neglect.
2. The court appointed the members identified in the order, specified voting and non-voting membership, directed the chair to convene the task force, and required interim and final reports by February 1, 2020, and December 1, 2020, respectively.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Oklahoma Supreme Court determined that a task force was needed to study models of legal representation for children and parents in abuse-and-neglect proceedings. The task force was directed to assess training, compensation, practice standards, evaluation processes, appellate advocacy, and related matters affecting the rights of children and parents.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Supreme Court of Oklahoma issued the order pursuant to its general administrative authority and to implement SCAD-2014-06. The order created the Task Force on the Uniform Representation of Children and Parents in Cases Involving Abuse and Neglect, appointed voting and non-voting members, and directed the task force to submit interim and final reports.

DISPOSITION

other

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

CREATION OF TASK FORCE ON UNIFORM REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS IN CASES INVOLVING ABUSE AND NEGLECT Skip to Main Content Accessibility Statement Help Contact Us e-payments Careers Home Courts Decisions Programs News Legal Research Court Records Quick Links OSCN Found Document: CREATION OF TASK FORCE ON UNIFORM REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS IN CASES INVOLVING ABUSE AND NEGLECT Previous Case Top Of Index This Point in Index Citationize Next Case Print Only CREATION OF TASK FORCE ON UNIFORM REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS IN CASES INVOLVING ABUSE AND NEGLECT2019 OK 53Decided: 07/22/2019THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF

OKLAHOMA Cite as: 2019 OK 53, __ P.3d __ NOTICE: THIS OPINION HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION.

UNTIL RELEASED, IT IS SUBJECT TO REVISION OR WITHDRAWAL. Re: CREATION OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE UNIFORM REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS IN CASES INVOLVING ABUSE AND NEGLECT; AND THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS THERETO ORDER ¶1 The Supreme Court of Oklahoma, pursuant to its general administrative authority, Okla. Const. Art. 7 §6, and in order to more fully implement SCAD-2014-06, hereby establishes the Task Force on the Uniform Representation of Children and Parents in Cases Involving Abuse and Neglect.

The Task Force is charged with determining models of legal representation conducted pursuant to the Oklahoma Children's Code, to assess training, compensation, practice standards and make recommendations on the development of rules and procedures, to address uniform compensation and evaluation processes, training requirements, and improving appellate advocacy, as well as other related issues in order to protect the rights of children and parents and improve outcomes. ¶2 In order to carry out this assignment, the Task Force shall have twelve (12) members as follows: The Honorable Michael C. Flanagan, Associate District Judge Cotton County, to serve as Chair.

Voting members: 1. The Honorable Robert A. Ravitz, Chief Public Defender of Oklahoma County 2. The Honorable Corbin C. Brewster, Chief Public Defender of Tulsa County 3. Ronald Baze, Oklahoma Department of Human Services General Counsel 4. Donna Glandon, Attorney, Lawton, OK 5.

The Honorable Rebecca Gore, Associate District Judge, Mayes County 6. Lisa Bohannon, Attorney, Pryor, OK 7. Mark Morrison, Attorney, Durant, OK 8. Holly Iker, Attorney, Norman, OK. 9. Tsinena Thompson, Chairperson, OBA Juvenile Law Section 10. Michael Figgins, Executive Director, Legal Aid of Oklahoma 11. Gwendolyn Clegg, Attorney, Tulsa 12. Timothy R. Beebe, Attorney, Enid Non-voting members: 1.

Sharon Hsieh, Deputy General Counsel of the Administrative Office of the Courts 2. The Honorable Doris Fransein, Consultant 3. Felice Hamilton, Court Improvement Program Director 4. Casey Family Program support staff 5. Julie Rorie, Attorney, Oklahoma Supreme Court ¶3 The Chair of the Task Force shall convene the Task Force with all due speed. Members appointed by the Supreme Court may be reimbursed for all expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

The standing meeting will be the 4th Friday of the month. The Task Force shall prepare an interim report to the Supreme Court no later than February 1, 2020, with a final report on December 1, 2020. ¶4 DONE BY ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT this 22nd day of July, 2019. /S/CHIEF

JUSTICE Gurich, C.J., Darby, V.C.J., Winchester, Edmondson, Colbert and Combs, JJ., concur; Kauger, J., not voting.

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