

# In the Supreme Court of the State of Idaho

IN RE: MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILDREN )  
AND FAMILIES IN THE COURTS ) ORDER  
COMMITTEE )  
)

Idaho Code § 32-1403 states, “The supreme court may establish a committee consisting of representatives of the judicial, executive and legislative branches to implement a coordinated family court services plan for a comprehensive response to children and families in the courts. The committee shall recommend, for adoption by the supreme court, policies and procedures that will carry out the purposes of this chapter.”

The charge to the Children and Families in the Courts Committee is as follows:

1. To implement a coordinated family court services plan for a comprehensive response that addresses the needs of children and family members who are faced with one or more court actions involving family issues such as divorce, child support, child custody and visitation disputes, domestic violence, child protection/foster care, and juvenile correction proceedings.
2. To develop innovative case management practices designed to promote an efficient use of family and court resources. The Committee shall investigate an expansion of non-adversarial alternative dispute procedures that assist in resolving high conflict family issues that are damaging to children, supervised child visitation when certain risk factors are present, and the adoption of pilot projects that promote timely and effective resolution of related disputes in court cases involving children and families. The plan also includes the use of family court coordinators and court assistance officers.
3. To coordinate with judicial district planning efforts and other Idaho Supreme Court Committees having an impact on children and families.
4. To examine and consider long-term funding strategies to permit development and implementation of family services and justice planning activities. This includes examining grants for family service projects, potential increases in state funding, co-funding between participating agencies, fee-based income for services and consideration of current resources and potential for redistribution.
5. To consider program development, resource development, technical assistance and training capacity (multi-disciplinary institute) for the development and sharing of best practices.
6. To develop evaluative measures and standards for the coordinated family court services plan and family justice system.
7. To coordinate with and develop partnerships with education, executive and legislative branches of government, and in this capacity, act as a clearinghouse for all matters pertaining to children and families in the courts.
8. To recommend policies and procedures for adoption by the Idaho Supreme Court that will carry out the charge of the Committee.

9. To provide bench guide updates and develop forms and protocols in relation to all aspects of family law, child protection proceedings, juvenile justice and other legal actions affecting children.

Committee members that shall be released from the duties associated with the Committee, with our appreciation for their service are:

Honorable Matthew Schelstrate  
 Honorable Brendon Taylor  
 Tammie Whyte

Individuals who shall be appointed to the Committee are:

Honorable Matthew Bever  
 Honorable Faren Eddins  
 Benita Miller

Committee members that shall be re-appointed to the Committee for an additional two-year term to expire December 31, 2027, are:

Honorable Diane Walker, Chair  
 Honorable Karin Seubert  
 Jennifer Brumley, Esq.  
 Wendy Seagraves  
 Jennifer "JJ" White  
 Dr. Leah York

After implementing this Order, the membership of the Committee is as follows:

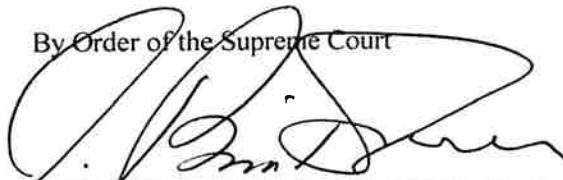
Committee Member	Title	Term Expires
Honorable Diane Walker	Chair: Magistrate Judge, Fourth Judicial District	December 31, 2027
Honorable Scott Axline	Magistrate Judge, Sixth Judicial District	December 31, 2026
Honorable Matthew Bever	Magistrate Judge, Third Judicial District	December 31, 2027
Honorable Faren Eddins	Magistrate Judge, Seventh Judicial District	December 31, 2027
Honorable Laurie Fortier	Magistrate Judge, Fourth Judicial District	December 31, 2026
Honorable John B. Lothspeich	Magistrate Judge, Fifth Judicial District	December 31, 2026
Honorable Keisha Oxendine	Magistrate Judge, First Judicial District	December 31, 2026
Honorable Karin Seubert	Magistrate Judge, Second Judicial District	December 31, 2027
Dr. Todd Bennett	Psychologist, Fourth Judicial District	December 31, 2026
Jennifer Brumley, Esq.	Attorney, First Judicial District	December 31, 2027
Benita Miller	Trial Court Administrator, Third Judicial District	December 31, 2026
Seth Platts, Esq.	Attorney, Fifth Judicial District	December 31, 2026
Wendy Seagraves	Deputy Division Administrator, IDHW	December 31, 2027
Frances Stern, Esq.	Attorney, Fourth Judicial District	December 31, 2026
Jennifer "JJ" White	FCS District Manager, Seventh Judicial District	December 31, 2027
Dr. Leah York	Psychologist, Fifth Judicial District	December 31, 2027

Administrative Office of the Courts staff person and legal counsel appointed to provide on-going support and guidance to the Children and Families in the Courts Committee:

Deonda Thompson, Statewide Program Manager, Family Court and Domestic Violence  
Deena Layne, Deputy Legal Counsel

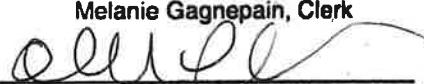
This order shall be effective on the date signed.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2026.

By Order of the Supreme Court  
  
G. Richard Bevan  
Chief Justice, Idaho Supreme Court

ATTEST:   
Melanie Gagnepain, Clerk

I, Melanie Gagnepain, Clerk of the Supreme Court/  
Court of Appeals of the State of Idaho, do hereby  
Certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the  
order entered in the above entitled  
cause and now on record in my office. WITNESS my  
hand and the Seal of this Court 2-4-26  
Melanie Gagnepain, Clerk

By  Deputy