

In the Supreme Court of the State of Idaho

IN RE: MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHILD)
PROTECTION COMMITTEE)

ORDER

The Court having determined the need to appoint a statewide committee to examine ways of reducing delays for children in foster care and the Court having chosen the members of said committee;

The charge to the Committee is as follows:

A. Identify:

1. Factors (practices, procedures, guidelines, statutes, rules) which contribute to delays in reunification;
2. Factors (practices, procedures, guidelines, statutes, rules) which contribute to delays in termination of parental rights;
3. Factors (practices, procedures, guidelines, statutes, rules) which contribute to delays in permanent placements;
4. Terms in the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 which need clarification;
5. Successful approaches to child protection cases used in other states.

B. Provide:

1. Predictability, security and certainty as soon as possible, and make recommendations for reducing delays for children in foster care including reducing delays in reunification, in terminations, and in permanent placements;
2. Recommendations for shared accountability and unified standards of practice within and between the key players including the Court, Tribal Court, Dept. of Health and Welfare, Prosecutor, Public Defender, Dept. of Juvenile Corrections, and CASA;
3. Recommendations for better coordination between different courts/judges/cases involving the same family including protection order, juvenile, family law, and child protection across all Idaho counties;
4. Recommendations for unified statewide judicial approach to child protection cases;
5. Recommendations for increasing voluntary terminations including whether and how to accommodate the parents willing to terminate if allowed to maintain some contact in cases where such contact is not detrimental to child;
6. Recommendations for minimizing trauma to children after removal;
7. Recommendations regarding role of long-term guardianship/foster care.

The Court, being advised that a request has been made for adjustments to the Child Protection Committee membership;

The following changes are made to the Child Protection Committee membership:

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

Zoie Laggis
Judge Victoria Olds

Committee Members that shall be appointed to the Committee are:

Jessalyn Hopkins
John Spaulding
Judge Paige Nolte
Steve Stevens
Tawny Welch

Committee Members that shall be reappointed for another term to expire December 31, 2026, are:

Judge Anna Eckhart
Karlene Behringer
Nancy Austin
Marian Woods

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

Committee Member	Title	Term Expires
Hon. Andrew Ellis	Magistrate Judge, Fourth Judicial District, Ada County	December 31, 2024
Hon. Anna Eckhart	Magistrate Judge, First Judicial District, Kootenai County	December 31, 2026
Hon. Calvin Campbell	Magistrate Judge, Fifth Judicial District, Twin Falls	December 31, 2025
Hon. Courtnie Tucker	Magistrate Judge, Third Judicial District, Canyon County	December 31, 2025
Hon. Jessica Lorello	Chief Judge Court of Appeals	December 31, 2026
Hon. Neal Randall	Magistrate Judge, Seventh Judicial District, Butte County	December 31, 2024
Hon. Paige Nolte	Magistrate Judge, Second Judicial District, Lewis County	December 31, 2024
Hon. Paul Laggis	Magistrate Judge, Sixth Judicial District, Power County	December 31, 2024
Jessalyn Hopkins	Public Defender, Bannock County	December 31, 2026
Jessica Long, Esq.	Associate Clinical Professor of Law, University of Idaho	December 31, 2025
John Spaulding	Deputy Attorney General, IDHW	December 31, 2026
Julie Kane, Esq.	Managing Attorney, Nez Perce Tribe	December 31, 2024
Karlene Behringer	Trial Court Administrator, First Judicial District	December 31, 2026
Krista Howard, Esq.	Attorney representing children in the Fourth Judicial District	December 31, 2025
Lisa Nordstrom, Esq.	Guardian Ad Litem Attorney	December 31, 2025
Marian Woods	Senior Director, Casey Family Programs	December 31, 2026
Nancy Austin, Esq.	Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Twin Falls County	December 31, 2026
Roger Sherman	Executive Director, Idaho Children's Trust Fund	December 31, 2025
Roxanne Printz	Deputy Division Administrator, Family and Children Services, IDHW	December 31, 2024
Stacy McAlevy	CASA Executive Director, Seventh Judicial District	December 31, 2024
Andie Blackwood	Bureau Chief, Family and Children Services, IDHW	December 31, 2025
Brigitte Borup, Esq.	Deputy Public Defender, Canyon County	December 31, 2025
Cassidy Littleton	Lived Experience Representative	December 31, 2025
Steve Stephens	Prosecuting Attorney, Butte County	December 31, 2026
Tawny Welch	Lived Experience Representative	December 31, 2026

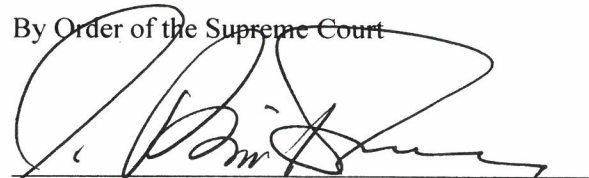
A team of Idaho court administrative experts, as well as Legal Counsel, will provide on-going support and guidance to the Child Protection Committee, as needed.

Teresa Vance, Court Programs and Services Administrator, Child Protection
Deena Layne, Deputy Legal Counsel

This order shall be effective on the date signed.

DATED this 2nd day of January, 2024.

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
Mem. Child Protection Cts. entered in the above entitled
cause and now on record in my office. WITNESS my
hand and the Seal of this Court January 2, 2024

Melanie Gagnepain, Clerk

By Corly Clark Deputy