



HB23-1172: Child Welfare And Juvenile Court Jurisdiction

Background

The Colorado Department of Human Services, in partnership with counties, the Child Protection Ombudsman, County and City Attorneys, the Office of the Child's Representative, the Office of the Respondent Parent Counsel, and other interested parties meets monthly to discuss various statutes and challenges facing people moving through family court. HB23-1172 is a result of these discussions.

Issue and Proposed Solution

This past year, the Colorado Court of Appeals issued a published decision, *People in Interest of T.W.*, and held that the jurisdiction of a juvenile court must be specified in statute. HB23-1172 addresses the following topics related to the jurisdiction of juvenile courts:

- Amend C.R.S. §19-1-104(6) to allow juvenile courts to enter permanent allocations of parental responsibilities without requiring a full adjudication of a child as dependent or neglected as to each parent. This change allows a juvenile judge who knows the family to enter a permanent APR order without requiring that the parent admit to the Dependency & Neglect (D&N) allegations or have a finding against them.
- Amend C.R.S. §13-15-101 to clarify the name change statute to allow juvenile courts to order name changes for children or youth who appear in D&N and Foster Youth in Transition cases.
- Amend the publications requirements of C.R.S. §13-15-102 to exclude children/youth who are adjudicated dependent or neglected from these requirements.

These changes allow for resolution of many juvenile court proceedings without unduly burdening the parents and children involved in the cases.

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