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### Keeping Families Stronger Together 2023

On behalf of the CRP, I wanted to personally thank everyone who attended our first conference, Keeping Families Stronger Together 2023. We all learned a lot, we tackled tough topics, addressed controversy, and gained invaluable insights. I recognize that it was not always easy or comfortable. Yet, only through challenging ourselves do we truly learn.

Our work this year is just the beginning and the CRP is committed to continuing this collective journey of growth and exploration. Your spirit, zeal, and commitment to our shared cause sustains us and drives us to do better. We see the work that you do and applaud you for being agents of true change.

Today, we continue to build a path forward and your feedback is essential to our mission. At this time, we continue to edit the large archive of video content and will notify you when the session recordings are available, in case you were unable to join us or just want to rewatch a session.

Lastly, please do ensure that you have completed the CLE certification on our the website, a link can be found [here](#).

### Welcome to our new OCLA, CRP Team

OCLA is excited to announce the addition of four new CRP dedicated personnel, Karrina Guilbault, Gaby Robinson, Daria Spartan and Rowan Young.

### Karrina Guilbault, Program Counsel

Karrina Guilbault joins us from Spokane, where she is known for her strong advocacy & passion for child

welfare. She spent the past six years representing children & youth, and three years prior representing parents, in dependency and termination matters. She is excited to join OCLA as program counsel, where she looks forward to utilizing her knowledge and experience for systemic improvement.

### Gaby Robinson

Gabriel Robinson has been working for OCLA as an Administrative and Contract Support Assistant for two years. She is committed to advocacy for those who are disproportionately marginalized and believes in OCLA's work and feels blessed to be a part of this program. She has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice as well as an associate degree as a paralegal.

### Daria Spartan, Program Counsel

Daria Spartan most recently having served as an Assistant Attorney General for Tacoma SHS in dependency and guardianship matters. Daria has been practicing as a Guardian ad Litem in family law and Children's Attorney in dependency matters in Washington since 2013, and before that, in Iowa since earning her Juris Doctorate from Drake University School of Law in 2002, where she helped to found the Middleton Center for Children's Rights.

### Rowan Young, Administrative Assistant

Rowan Young, born and raised in Olympia, WA. Pursuing a bachelor's degree in communications with a minor in Psychology. Joining OCLA as Admin/Contract Support with more than six years of administrative experience. Assisting the CRP with passion for the work executed by our team to create a bright future for every child.

If you have any questions related to these personnel changes, please contact [crp@ocla.wa.gov](mailto:crp@ocla.wa.gov) for assistance.

**LEGISLATIVE AND CASE LAW UPDATES****RTL v. KM, No. 39276-7-III**

During DM's dependency proceeding, she was placed with her maternal grandmother. DM's maternal grandmother moved to intervene in the dependency in order to pursue a de facto parentage petition, apparently spurred on by the father's engagement in services and a court ordered secondary plan of reunification with him. The dependency court concluded she lacked standing to seek such relief and denied her motion to intervene. On revision, the dependency court concluded "that the grandmother had not set forth a prima facie case of de facto parentage under RCW 26.26A.440, and thus she did not have standing to intervene." On appeal, Division III of the Court of Appeals concluded that "the trial court properly denied the grandmother's motion to intervene. In a dependency, a relative who obtains placement of a child does not satisfy RCW 26.26A.440(4)(c)'s requirement of undertaking full and permanent responsibilities of a parent." The opinion, although brief, fairly, and succinctly, articulates what full and permanent responsibilities of a parent is and what it is not, at least as far as it is derived from a dependency placement. If you are facing an intervention resulting from a dependency placement, this opinion is helpful to review. For more, please click [here](#).

**In the Matter of the Dependency of MLW and IAW, No. 83810-5-1**

In the Matter of the Dependency of MLW and IAW the Court of Appeals, Division 1 addressed several issues. Two of which bear scrutiny. The first was whether family therapy was a necessary service and the second was whether denial of the older sibling, MW's motion for intervention was proper. On these issues, the Court of Appeals found in favor of the State and denied the mother's arguments.

Regarding family therapy, MLW and IAW's mother argued that family therapy was a necessary service. She asserted that family therapy would allow the "entire family to understand the impact of [her] substance abuse and communicate openly and honestly." While the court

record contained reference to family therapy as a service, those references were found to be conditional, or at least of little benefit without demonstrated progress in mental health and substance abuse treatment. While the opinion is extremely fact specific, it should be scrutinized.

Regarding a sibling's right to intervene, the Court of Appeals accepted the precedential narrative that siblings have "no legal interest beyond what is found in dependency statutes for limited contact facilitation by the Department." As such, a sibling's desire to participate in the trial of another appears to be limited to testimony or out of court advocacy. This opinion continues the constraint of legal rights between siblings.

The opinion in MLW and IAW is dense, and this resuscitation is therefore inadequate, please review the full opinion [here](#).

**OTHER IMPORTANT UPDATES****Travel**

All travel invoices (A-20 vouchers), whether it is travel done pursuant to a legally free contract or a 1219 contract, should be sent to [travelinvoice@ocla.wa.gov](mailto:travelinvoice@ocla.wa.gov). Please indicate in the subject line of the email to which contract the travel pertains e.g. "1219 Travel" or "Legally Free Travel".

**1219 Invoices**

All invoices pertaining to work completed pursuant to an attorney's 1219 contract, besides travel invoices, should be sent to [1219invoice@ocla.wa.gov](mailto:1219invoice@ocla.wa.gov). Examples include monthly invoices for compensation and any sort of A-19 voucher.

**Legally Free Invoices**

All invoices pertaining to work completed pursuant to an attorney's legally free contract, besides travel invoices, should be sent to [legallyfreeinvoice@ocla.wa.gov](mailto:legallyfreeinvoice@ocla.wa.gov). Examples include monthly invoices for compensation and any sort of A-19 voucher.