

July 2024



THE Children's Representation Program NEWSLETTER

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Settlement Reached in Case of Three Women Who Claim that They Were Sexually Assaulted in Washington State Foster Care

According to a recent Seattle Times article, Washington State has settled with three sisters over what they said was a failure of DSHS to protect them from years of sexual abuse during the early 1990's. The \$15 million dollar settlement was reached on the eve of trial. Case notes from the time reveal that a social worker recommended that the girls be removed from the home due to the sexual abuse allegations, but no action was taken. To read the full article, please click [here](#).

Developmental Practiced Cards

The Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid recently released a reference guide on developmental ages and stages authored by Daria Spartan, OCLA CRP Program Counsel. This reference guide can be found on OCLA's website by clicking [here](#). The guide contains important information on the ages and stages of development, key points, and effective engagement ideas. Thank you, Daria!

Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid

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Proposed Changes to Washington Supreme Court Public Defense Standards Open for Public Comment

As many of you may have mixed caseloads, you may be interested in the proposed changes to the Washington Supreme Court Public Defense Standards.

These proposed changes can be found [here](#) and public comment is open until October 31, 2024.

Washington State Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds Report on Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities in Washington State

The Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care recently released the 2024 Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds Report on Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities in Washington State. This report describes child critical incidents related to child maltreatment occurring in 2023. The report also discusses the recommendations made in child fatality and near fatality reviews and the implementation status of these recommendations. To review the full report, click [here](#).

Washington Courts Report Podcast

Washington Courts Report is the now the official podcast of the Administrative Office of the Courts. It is hosted by AOC's Patric Haerle, with episodes covering "some of the most exciting work happening in the AOC and around Washington State Court System as a whole." Current episodes include:

- ❖ Therapeutic Court Month
- ❖ Family Reunification Month

To listen to the show, click [here](#). AOC would like to hear from you about issues you think need exploring. Please send your episode ideas, news suggestions, or other feedback for the show to Patric.Haerle@courts.wa.gov.

2023 Families Stronger Together Conference

The Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid, The Washington State Office of Public Defense, and Akin are excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2024 Families Stronger Together Conference, September 30th & October 1st, at the Yakima Convention Center. OCLA panel attorneys will receive an email with registration details. We look forward to seeing you there!

