

Children's Justice Project Advisory Council

Rule 1. Children's Justice Project Advisory Council

The Children's Justice Project Advisory Council shall operate under the direction and supervision of the Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court, or any judicial administrative body to which the Supreme Court may hereafter delegate such functions.

The advisory council shall demonstrate meaningful, ongoing collaboration among the courts, the Wyoming Department of Family Services and the Indian Tribes in the State.

Rule 2. Membership

The advisory council shall be multi-disciplinary and statewide. It shall be composed of no more than 23 members appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who shall also appoint such successors as necessary to fill vacancies created by the death, resignation, or other cause for an advisory council member to be rendered unable to serve. Ex-officio members may be appointed to the advisory council. In the event a member's term expires, the Chief Justice has the discretion to request the member to serve another term. Members will be appointed to serve a 3-year term. The Chief Justice has the discretion to remove a member in the event a member is absent from three (3) or more consecutive advisory council meetings.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in making appointments to the advisory council, may select members that are representatives of, but not limited to, the Supreme Court, District Court Judges, Legislators, Prosecuting Attorneys, Attorney General or designee, Department of Family Services, Guardians *ad Litem*, Parents' Attorneys, child advocates, clerks of district court, State Public Defender or designee, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Indian Tribes, Department of Health, education, mental health providers, foster care alumni, and foster care services providers.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall designate the presiding officer of the advisory council. The presiding officer may form subcouncils as needed to accomplish the business of the advisory council.

A person may not serve on the advisory council if the person is required to register as a lobbyist in his/her profession.

Rule 3. Compensation

A member of the advisory council is not entitled to compensation but is entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses incurred by the member while conducting official business of the advisory council.

Rule 4. Staff

The Wyoming Supreme Court shall provide staff for the advisory council.

Rule 5. General Powers, Responsibilities and Duties

The advisory council shall convene at least annually. It shall consult with the Supreme Court in developing and implementing strategic plans and monitoring progress toward outcomes to meet the requirements of the federal grants.

The advisory council's responsibilities include but are not limited to implementing approaches for Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) to ensure that proceedings related to child abuse and neglect promote due process of law; timely, thorough and complete court hearings; high quality legal representation to parents, children and the department of family services, both in and out of court, in an ongoing fashion; and engagement of the entire family in court processes relating to child welfare, family preservation, family reunification and adoption.

The advisory council's duties include but are not limited to: attending meetings; documenting the amount of time spend on projects for the state match grant requirement; reviewing and commenting on proposed rules, regulations, standards, guidelines, reports, legislative bills, court assessment questionnaires and instruments; collection and review of data, and providing recommendations for court reform to the Supreme Court.

Rule 6. Duration

The Children's Justice Project Advisory Council shall continue through September 30, 2021.