



# Court Orders Impacting Child Forensic Interview Subcommittee Meeting



**June 25, 2020**

Conference Call: 888-585-9008

Participant Code/Conference Room: 662-715-645

### Attendance

<b>Members Present</b>	
Judge Daniel Dawson - Chair	
Alan Abramowitz, Esq. – Co-Chair	
Kelly Swartz	
Candice Brower	
Terrence Watts	
<b>Members Not present</b>	
Lorena M. Vollrath-Bueno	
<b>Guests Present</b>	<b>DOH Staff Present</b>
Jay Howell, Esq.	S. Nicole Jordan
Jackie Sandefer-Gonsen	Marceller Hines
Angela Griffin	
Theresa E. Simak	
Maureen Honan	

## **Court Orders Impacting Child Forensic Interviews Subcommittee Meeting**

### **Welcome and Roll Call:**

### **Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes were approved May 5, 2020

### **Model Administrative Order for Protocol:**

- Reviewed administrative orders that reflect therapy dogs. Drafted a template model order that Chief Judges can use. Only 13 circuits reference therapy dogs. Subcommittee can create a model order than circuits can consider. This approach may provide circuits with information administrative orders.
- Standardize some language that may fit all circuits due to different infrastructures
- Model order will include statutory requirements align with therapy dog guidelines.
- Model order will include list the appropriate parties to take all circuits into consideration
  - Draft was sent to the Animal Law section to give provide comment when this was developed
  - The subcommittee can determine if this should also be sent to Legal Needs Children for comment
  - Alan Abramowitz suggestion for best approach is to provide more information to everyone, if the use of therapy and facility dogs were needed
- Need to identify of the statute should be revised and what language is needed to align with current legal practices
  - A standard order for everyone to tweak should be available as it would be a huge benefit
  - The order should not be limited to the Public Defender Regional Counsel party, but make it available to any party

### **Standardization of Administrative Orders Limiting Child Interviews:**

- Best approaches to initiate data collection on standardizing administrative orders
- Implement a model standard administrative order and submit to appropriate individuals for review and recommendations (similar to the model administrative order for protocol)
- May modify the model order based on the needs and recommendations from various circuits or go through the rule's committees
- Subcommittee members agreed on the next steps regarding initiating a draft of the standardization of administrative orders
  - Contact Member, Lorena Vollrath-Bueno to request a draft of order

- Motion made to draft the e-mail request by Kelly Swartz, Jay Howell second the motion, all in favor-the entire subcommittee, no-one opposed, motion passed
- Marceller Hines, Staff, will contact Member, Lorena Vollrath-Bueno regarding the request and inform Chair, Judge Dawson

### **Next Steps & Meeting Date:**

- Subcommittee members agreed to the plan to move forward with the agreed upon plan.
- Recommended for the committee to discuss training and messaging to communicate the new administrative order within their circuit (interviewing children and forensic interviewing). This may be taken into consideration after circuit judges review the model order and agree to the language.
- Discussed the importance of professionals being aware of the court order (i.e. – presentation at judged conferences)
- Child Protection Team staff are informed about administrative orders within their circuits during Child Forensic Interview Trainings conducted by the Florida Department of Health
- Issue: Limiting interviews of children may complicate circumstances depending on the situation. Important to take into consideration how limiting the number of interviews may have a negative impact on the criminal case. Needs to define an interview versus an interaction.
- Subcommittee members can review the model draft and provide recommendations
- Language should include multiple components to ensure that it is effectively to meet the needs of the child and involved professionals that need protection.
- May need to review the statute for language that may be a barrier to making changes to the administrative orders
  - Education/Training was identified as a barrier
  - Review the statute that mandates the administrative order, which could hinder making a greater order and point out for possible legislative change
- Make changes to the subcommittee directory
  - Member, Kelly Swartz information is from a previous position
  - Send corrections to [Marceller.Hines@flhealth.gov](mailto:Marceller.Hines@flhealth.gov)
- Full CFAC committee meeting is scheduled for August
- Frequency of subcommittee meetings:
  - Subcommittee agreed to meet quarterly, however, the committee may meet more frequently as needed
  - Next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 2:00PM via conference call

### **Adjourn:**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:41PM