

# In the Supreme Court of the State of Idaho

IN RE: APPOINTMENT OF A )  
STATEWIDE COMMITTEE TO ) ORDER  
REDUCE DELAYS FOR CHILDREN )  
IN FOSTER CARE ) No. 98-20

The Court having determined the need to appoint a statewide committee to examine ways of reducing delays for children in foster care, to be chaired by the Hon. Bryan K. Murray and the Court having chosen the members of said committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following persons are appointed as members of the STATEWIDE COMMITTEE TO REDUCE DELAYS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE to serve until further order of the Court:

Hon. Bryan K. Murray, Chair  
Magistrate, Sixth Judicial District

Hon. John P. Luster  
Magistrate, First Judicial District

Hon. Lynne Krogh  
Magistrate, Third Judicial District

Hon. Melvin Edwards  
Magistrate, Fifth Judicial District

Professor Elizabeth Brandt  
University of Idaho

Charles Kovis  
Attorney at Law

Frederick Belzer  
Attorney at Law

Hon. Gregory K. Kalbfleisch  
Magistrate, Second Judicial District

Hon. John Dutcher  
Magistrate, Fourth Judicial District

Hon. Colin W. Luke  
Magistrate Seventh Judicial District

Lynette Ehler  
Attorney at Law

Michael Crabtree  
Attorney at Law

Bill Lasley  
Dept. of Juvenile Corrections

Sue Gable  
State CASA President

Linda Jensen  
Lutheran Social Services  
Adoption Mediation Project

Carol Kriz  
Child therapist

Anna Sever  
Dept. of Health and Welfare

Meri Brennan  
Dept. of Health and Welfare

Ann Mattoon  
Regional of Health and Welfare  
Chief of Social Work

Kristie Browning  
Reporter

The Charge to the Committee is as follows:

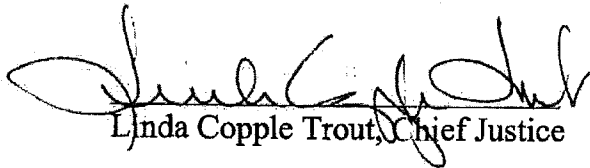
- A. Identify:
1. Factors (practices, procedures, guidelines, statutes, rules) which contribute to delays in reunification;
  2. Factors (practices, procedures, guidelines, statutes, rules) which contribute to delays in termination of parental rights;
  3. Factors (practices, procedures, guidelines, statutes, rules) which contribute to delays in permanent placements;
  4. Terms in the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 which need clarification;
  5. Successful approaches to child protection cases used in other states.
- B. To provide predictability, security and certainty as soon as possible, make recommendations for reducing delays for children in foster care including reducing delays in reunification, in terminations, and in permanent placements.
- C. Recommendations for shared accountability and unified standards of practice within and between the key players including the Court, Tribal Court, Dept. of Health and Welfare, Prosecutor, Public Defender, Dept. of Juvenile Corrections, and CASA.
- D. Recommendations for better coordination between different courts/judges/cases involving the same family including protection order, juvenile, family law, and child protection across all Idaho counties.
- E. Recommendations for unified statewide judicial approach to child protection cases.

- F. Recommendations for increasing voluntary terminations including whether and how to accommodate the parents willing to terminate if allowed to maintain some contact in cases where such contact is not detrimental to child.
- G. Recommendations for minimizing trauma to children after removal.
- H. Recommendations regarding role of long term guardianship/foster care.

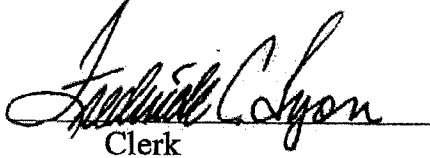
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Hon. Bryan K. Murray shall serve as Chair of said committee until further order of the Court.

DATED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1998.

By Order of the Supreme Court

  
Linda Copple Trout, Chief Justice

ATTEST:

  
Clerk