SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 25-06

(Amending Juvenile Practice Standards to incorporate new Post-Commitment Juvenile Attorney Practice Standards)

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Family Court Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-114, 115 Stat. 2100 (2002) provides that the Superior Court shall establish standards of practice for attorneys appointed as counsel in matters under the jurisdiction of the Family Court of the Superior Court; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney Practice Standards for Representing Juveniles Charged with Delinquency or as Persons in Need of Supervision were adopted in Administrative Order 04-13 and Attorney Practice Standards for Post-Commitment Juvenile Attorneys were adopted in Administrative Order 25-05; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney Practice Standards for Post-Commitment Juvenile Attorneys should be incorporated into Attorney Practice Standards for Representing Juveniles Charged with Delinquency or as Persons in Need of Supervision to provide guidance in circumstances where the Court maintains the appointment of the original trial attorney as the Post-Commitment Juvenile Attorney;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Amendment to Attorney Practice Standards for Representing Juveniles Charged with Delinquency or as Persons in Need of Supervision is so that the Court may exercise its discretion and maintain the original appointment of trial counsel, or the Court may appoint an attorney from Open City Advocates, the Public Defender Service or the Post-Commitment Juvenile Attorney Family Court Panel to serve as the Post-Commitment Juvenile Attorney;

NOW THEREFORE, it is by the court,

ORDERED, that the Amendment to Attorney Practice Standards for Representing Juveniles Charged with Delinquency or as Persons in Need of Supervision shall take effect on the date of this order and shall govern the practice of counsel for respondents in Family Court delinquency and Persons in Need of Supervision cases.

SO ORDERED.

DATE: February 13, 2025

Milton C. Lee, Jr.
Chief Judge

Copies to:

Judicial Officers
Executive Officer
Clerk of the Court
Office of General Counsel
Division Directors
District of Columbia Bar
Daily Washington Law Reporter
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Open City Advocates
Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

Superior Court of the District of Columbia
Family Court

Amendment to Attorney Practice Standards For Representing Juveniles Charged with Delinquency or as Persons in Need of Supervision

Submitted to Milton Lee, Jr., Chief Judge
Superior Court of the District of Columbia

By

Darlene M. Soltys, Presiding Judge, Family Court

Amendment to Attorney Practice Standards for Representing Juveniles Charged with Delinquency or as Persons in Need of Supervision by replacing G-2 Post-Disposition Obligations with this paragraph:

Section G-2 Post-Disposition Obligations

Once disposition is complete, counsel must maintain regular contact with the client to ensure that he continues to understand and comply with conditions set by the court at disposition. If the client is placed in a residential facility, group home, detention center or other out-of-home placement within the District of Columbia or within the D.C. Metropolitan area, counsel has an obligation to visit that client. If the client is placed outside of the Metropolitan Washington area, to the extent that the court retains jurisdiction over the case or otherwise approves for payment of attorney services, counsel shall maintain regular contact with the client either in person or by phone. Whenever a child is placed outside of his home, counsel shall maintain regular contact with staff at residential facilities, group homes, etc. as well as with youth services caseworkers and court social services staff. Counsel has a duty to prepare for, attend and advocate zealously on behalf of clients at all post-disposition reviews including revocation hearings. Counsel also has a duty to file appropriate pleadings with the Court when Court Social Services, DYRS or other youth agency is not in compliance with court directives.

When a client has been committed to the legal custody of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services and new counsel has not been appointed from Open City Advocates, the Public Defender Service or the Post-Commitment Attorney Panel, counsel must comply with the practice standards outlined in the Practice Standards for Post-Commitment attorneys, sections B-E.