

Keeping Current

A monthly newsletter for CCAN attorneys | Published by Children's Law Center | July 2014

D.C. Court of Appeals

S.M. v. R.M., No. 13-FM-236 (D.C. June 12, 2014) (a parent's irrevocable consent to the transfer of custody of a child to a non-parent under § 16-831.05 (a) generally waives his or her parental presumption in subsequent modification proceedings providing that irrevocable consent was waived knowingly and intelligently).

Child Welfare News

National:

States relax Medicaid eligibility for former foster kids. (*Governing*)

<http://www.governing.com/topics/health-human-services/gov-states-look-enroll-former-foster-youth-medicaid.html#continued>

Study shows in-home probation for juvenile offenders lowers recidivism. (*UCLA Newsroom*)

<http://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/study-shows-in-home-probation-for-juvenile-offenders-lowers-recidivism>

New study finds that one-third of Virginia children live at or near poverty. (*WAMU*)

http://wamu.org/news/14/05/26/new_study_finds_that_one_third_of_virginia_children_living_at_or_near_poverty#at_pco=cfid-1.0

Should a mental illness mean you lose your kid? Child welfare authorities and the concept of "predictive neglect." (*Pro Publica*)

<http://www.propublica.org/article/should-a-mental-illness-mean-you-lose-your-kid>

About This Publication

Keeping Current is a compilation of relevant news and information, including trainings and events. The materials referenced in *Keeping Current* are intended to be additional resources for consideration by members of the CCAN community, and Children's Law Center cannot verify the quality of all the materials or events referenced herein. CCAN attorneys should conduct their own independent research when reviewing these materials, and should review the weekly CCAN e-mail for current information. Please contact Jennifer Morris, Deputy Director, with comments or suggestions. *Keeping Current* is also posted on the Family Law page of ProBono.net/dc and www.childrenslawcenter.org.

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HUD marks National Foster Care Month with new report on housing challenge faced by youth aging out of foster care. (*The Exponent Telegram*)

http://www.theet.com/news/press_releases/hud-marks-national-foster-care-month-with-new-report-on/article_7a19d6e8-e771-11e3-a2e7-001a4bcf887a.html

First homeless shelter for youth in a decade opens in Prince George's County. (*WAMU*)

http://wamu.org/news/13/05/07/first_homeless_youth_shelter_in_a_decade_opens_in_prince_georges_county#at_pco=cfid-1.0

Montgomery County judges can do more to protect children from abusive parents. (*Washington Post*)

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/montgomery-judges-can-do-more-to-protect-children-from-abusive-parents/2014/06/04/ad9a2a16-e836-11e3-a86b-362fd5443d19_story.html

Abuse cases and a legacy of skepticism: are we dismissing the real victims? (*New York Times*)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/10/science/the-witch-hunt-narrative-are-we-dismissing-real-victims.html?hpw&rref=science&r=0>

Researchers at Johns Hopkins find that affordable housing boosts cognitive abilities and grades for children living in low-income families. (*Counsel & Heal*)

http://www.counselheal.com/home/news/services/print.php?article_id=10020

ACLU and immigrant rights groups accuse Border Patrol of "widespread" child abuse. (*Buzzfeed*)

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/juangastelum/aclu-and-other-immigrant-rights-groups-accuse-border-patrol>

Black children experience highest rates of abuse. (*Black Press USA*)

<http://www.blackpressusa.com/2014/06/black-children-have-highest-abuse-rates/#sthash.DkHzuWQG.om8CcBN8.dpbs>

The elusive, manipulative adoptive child: understanding reactive attachment disorder. (*The Atlantic*)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/06/reactive-attachment-disorder/372259/>

Los Angeles County supervisors vote to hire 'child protection czar' and institute sweeping reforms in the city's troubled child protection system. (*L.A. Times*)

<http://www.latimes.com/local/countygovernment/la-me-foster-reform-20140611-story.html>

A move to get youths to take tuition aid after aging out of foster care. (*New York Times*)

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/13/us/a-move-to-get-youths-to-take-tuition-aid-after-foster-care.html?_r=0

The case for dedicated dads: improving the long-term outcomes of children's health, academic success, and happiness. (*The Atlantic*)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-dedicated-dads/372516/>

Investigating abuses at unlicensed religious homes for troubled kids. (*Huffington Post*)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alexandra-zayas/investigating-abuses-at-unlicensed-religious-homes-for-troubled-kids/a_b_5488195.html

Baltimore mayor voices concern over proposed shelter for immigrant children from Central America. (*Baltimore Sun*)

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-immigrant-children-follow-20140610,0,1737052.story>

Adoptive families whose legally-adopted children are stuck in another country schedule meeting with lawmakers in DC. (*KWWL NBC7*)

<http://www.kwwl.com/story/25765752/2014/06/12/adoptive-families-schedule-meeting-with-lawmakers-in-dc>

Scarcity, poverty, and a deadline that never lifts. (*New York Times*)

http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/06/13/no-clocking-out/?_php=true&_type=blogs&r=0

Imprisoning fathers makes their kids unprepared for school. (*Washington Post*)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/06/14/imprisoning-fathers-makes-their-kids-unprepared-for-school/>

'Extreme Recruitment' finds permanent homes for Virginia foster children. (*Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star*)

<http://news.fredericksburg.com/newsdesk/2014/06/14/extreme-effort-finds-permanent-homes-for-foster-children/>

Ending child poverty in the US: financially prudent, morally just. (*TalkPoverty.org*)

<http://talkpoverty.org/2014/06/17/mcdade>

Mother of 7 in jail because her kids skipped school dies in cell. (*Washington Post*)

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/06/13/mother-of-7-in-jail-because-her-kids-skipped-school-dies-in-cell/?tid=pm_local_pop

Texas judge says legally-married same-sex fathers can't adopt or be listed on birth certificate. (*The Advocate*)

<http://www.advocate.com/parenting/2014/06/18/watch-judge-says-gay-dads-cant-adopt-be-listed-birth-certificate>

Baltimore joins cities toughening curfews, citing safety but eliciting concern. (*New York Times*)

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/22/us/baltimore-joins-cities-toughening-curfews-citing-safety-but-eliciting-concern.html?_r=0

Former foster care youth get help paying for health care up to age 26. (*NPR*)

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2014/06/20/323578979/former-foster-care-youths-get-help-paying-for-health-care>

A job seeker's desperate choice: a profile of Shanesha Taylor. (*New York Times*)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/22/business/a-job-seekers-desperate-choice.html?hpw&rref=business>

District:

DC Kids Count released their Data Tools 2.0, an interactive map that use several indicators of neighborhood well-being and poverty to show how children live in DC. (*DCist*)

http://dcist.com/2014/05/four_maps_that_show_how_children_li.php

Children from DC's low-income areas face increased risk of asthma, new study shows. (*WAMU*)

http://wamu.org/news/14/05/27/low_income_dc_children_face_more_risk_from_asthma

Odds of abuse and mistreatment add up over children's lives. (*NPR*)

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2014/06/02/318227196/odds-of-abuse-and-mistreatment-add-up-over-childrens-lives>

Growing up at DC General: how kids cope with shelter life. (*WAMU*)

http://wamu.org/programs/metro_connection/14/05/30/relisha_rudds_absence_strongly_felt_at_homeless_childrens_playtime_project

Why lowering DC's teen pregnancy rate matters to everyone. (*Elevation DC*)

http://www.elevationdcmedia.com/features/teenpregnancy_060314.aspx

Bill would give youths charged as adults the right to motion for transfer to Family Court. (*DCist*)

http://dcist.com/2014/06/bill_would_give_juveniles_charged_a.php

DC Council votes for a big tax cut for the first time in 15 years, with relief aimed at low and middle-income residents. (*Washington Post*)

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/dc-council-backs-first-big-tax-cut-in-15-years-city-to-be-more-competitive-with-md-va/2014/05/28/e24ca456-e669-11e3-8f90-73e071f3d637_story.html

The mold war. (*Washington City Paper*)

<http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/housingcomplex/2014/05/28/the-mold-war/>

This is where DC's housing voucher recipients live. (*Washington City Paper*)

<http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/housingcomplex/2014/06/12/this-is-where-d-c-s-housing-voucher-recipients-live/>

Education News

National:

In New Orleans, major school district closes traditional public schools for good, is now fully made up of charter schools. (*Washington Post*)

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/in-new-orleans-traditional-public-schools-close-for-good/2014/05/28/ae4f5724-e5de-11e3-8f90-73e071f3d637_story.html?wpisrc=nl_hdtop

The US Department of Education issues new guidance to make it easier for caseworkers and child welfare agencies to access the educational records of students in foster care. (*Education Week*)

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/rulesforengagement/2014/06/Guidance_Foster_Student_Education_Records.html

60 years later, *Brown v. Board's* shortcomings still reverberate as the true purpose of segregation, not addressed in *Brown*, continues to impede equality. (*National Law Journal*)

<http://www.nationallawjournal.com/id=1202657542604/60%20Years%20Later%20Brown%20v%20Boards%20Shortcomings%20Still%20Reverberate?mcode=0&curindex=0&curpage=ALL&slreturn=20140505105337>

'Posses' keep students on academic track. (*Education Week*)

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/06/05/34peerpower.h33.html?cmp=ENL-EU-NEWS1&intc=EW-DPCT14-ENL>

Rethinking the colorful kindergarten classroom. (*New York Times*)

http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/06/09/rethinking-the-colorful-kindergarten-classroom/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_php=true&_type=blogs&ref=health?src=dayp&_r=1&

From DC to Denver: school gardens are growing the next generation of leaders. (*Elevation DC*)

http://www.elevationdcmedia.com/features/schoolgardens_061014.aspx

A better approach to school discipline. (*New York Times*)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/14/opinion/zero-tolerance-policies-need-to-be-tamed.html?src=rechp>

New York City launches plan to turn 40 schools into service hubs offering medical services, fitness programs, tutoring, job training, and other community support. (*Chalkbeat New York*)

<http://ny.chalkbeat.org/2014/06/18/city-launches-52-million-plan-to-turn-40-schools-into-service-hubs/#.U6NC5JRdWIX>

Rhode Island special-needs student may be barred from graduation because of two points on a standardized test. (*Washington Post*)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/06/20/special-needs-student-may-be-barred-from-graduating-because-of-two-points-on-standardized-test/>

DC school boundary proposal spurs citywide debate about school quality. (*Washington Post* and *WAMU*)

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/dc-school-boundary-proposal-spurs-citywide-debate-about-quality/2014/06/21/d95d9922-f893-11e3-a606-946fd632f9f1_story.html and

http://wamu.org/news/14/06/20/catania_schwartz_express_skepticism_over_school_boundary_changes

States' special education services face tighter oversight by the Obama administration. (*Washington Post*)

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/states-special-education-services-face-tighter-oversight-by-the-obama-administration/2014/06/23/a103031e-fb36-11e3-b1f4-8e77c632c07b_story.html?wprss=rss_homepage

District:

The Washington Post editorial board endorses Jill Ortman-Fouse for Montgomery County school board, citing her interest in and ideas about closing the achievement gap between poor students of color and their white peers. (*Washington Post*)

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/jill-ortman-fouse-for-montgomery-county-school-board/2014/05/28/e62177bc-e6a7-11e3-afc6-a1dd9407abcf_story.html?wpisrc=nl_headlines

Increasing number of homeless students puts pressure on DC schools. (*WAMU*)

http://wamu.org/programs/metro_connection/14/05/30/dc_public_schools_scramble_to_solve_growing_numbers_of_homeless_students

DC classrooms welcome babies in effort to teach empathy. (*Washington Post*)

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/dc-classrooms-welcome-babies-in-effort-to-teach-empathy/2014/06/01/3b799610-dd2d-11e3-bda1-9b46b2066796_story.html?wpmk=MK0000203

Big changes to the city's budget include funding to put mental health professionals in six additional schools. (*DC Fiscal Policy Institute*)

<http://www.dcfpi.org/big-changes-in-the-dc-councils-budget-vote>

Unlocking opportunities: parent engagement services that help poor children succeed in the classroom. (*DC Fiscal Policy Institute*)

<http://www.dcfpi.org/unlocking-opportunities-parent-engagement-services-that-help-poor-children-succeed-in-the-classroom>

A report from OSSE finds that students who are black, male, in foster care, homeless, or with mental health needs are disproportionately suspended or expelled from DC schools. (*DCist*)

http://dcist.com/2014/06/report_students_who_are_black_in_fo.php

Helping homeless students succeed in the classroom. (*DC Fiscal Policy Institute*)

<http://www.dcfpi.org/unlocking-opportunities-helping-students-who-are-homeless-succeed-in-the-classroom>

More than 5,000 DC students suspended last year. (*WJLA*)

<http://www.wjla.com/articles/2014/06/report-more-than-5-000-d-c-students-suspended-last-year-103938.html>

DC reports decline in childhood obesity, school violence. (*The Washington Informer*)

<http://washingtoninformer.com/news/2014/jun/09/dc-reports-drop-childhood-obesity-school-violence/>

Thaddeus Stevens Elementary to be rehabilitated and used by Ivy Mount students with disabilities. (*Washington Business Journal*)

http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/breaking_ground/2014/06/finally-akridge-and-argos-may-get-their-hands-on-d.html

KIPP DC begins work on new high school near Ivy City. (*Elevation DC*)

http://www.elevationdcmedia.com/devnews/KIPP_collegeprep_060914.aspx.aspx

Capitol Riverfront parents organize to reopen Van Ness Elementary School. (*Greater Greater Education*)

<http://greatergreatereducation.org/post/23170/capitol-riverfront-parents-organize-to-reopen-a-closed-dcps-school/>

Under revised DC school boundary proposal, high schools would see changes. (*WAMU*)

http://wamu.org/news/14/06/12/revised_proposal_aligns_dcs_school_boundaries_and_feeder_patterns

What the proposed boundary changes mean for each of the city's high schools. (*Washington City Paper*)

<http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/housingcomplex/2014/06/13/what-the-proposed-boundary-changes-mean-for-each-of-the-citys-high-schools/>

After DC school lottery's second round, about 2,500 students are still not matched to a school. (*Greater Greater Education*)

<http://greatergreatereducation.org/post/23210/after-lotterys-second-round-about-2500-students-are-still-not-matched-with-schools/>

DC officials seek stronger oversight of charter schools after recent fraud allegations. (*Washington Post*)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/dc-officials-seek-stronger-oversight-of-charter-schools>

House is set to cut DC tuition grants, but not as much as it previously wanted. (*Washington Post*)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/mike-debonis/wp/2014/06/17/house-is-set-to-cut-d-c-tuition-grants-but-not-as-much-as-it-previously-wanted/>

New diploma designation requirements could bring radical change to DC high schools. (*Greater Greater Education*)

<http://greatergreatereducation.org/post/23271/new-graduation-requirements-could-bring-radical-change-to-dc-high-schools/>

Expanding DC's early intervention services can pay off in the long run. (*DC Fiscal Policy Institute*)

<http://www.dcfpi.org/expanding-dcs-early-intervention-services-can-pay-off-in-the-long-run>

Bill would require DC to evaluate special education students more quickly. (*WAMU*)

http://wamu.org/news/14/06/20/bill_would_require_dc_to_evaluate_special_education_students_more_quickly

DCPS hits pause on using test scores for teacher evaluations. (*WAMU*)

http://wamu.org/news/14/06/19/dcps_hits_pause_on_using_test_scores_for_teacher_evaluations

Mental Health News

Communication, transparency needed on use of psych meds, study says. (*Chronicle of Social Change*)
<https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/news/communication-and-transparency-may-improve-use-of-psych-meds-to-treat-foster-youths/6758>

Congress asks why foster children take more mental health meds than other kids. (*Take Part*)
<http://www.takepart.com/article/2014/05/29/foster-kids-drugs>

Three innovative ways to address and improve mental health issues. (*Washington Post*)
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/06/03/3-innovative-ways-to-address-mental-health-issues/>

Are we overmedicating kids in foster care? (*City Limits*)
<http://www.citylimits.org/conversations/255/prescriptions-and-foster-care>

Why are some depressed while others are resilient? Scientists hone in on one part of the brain. (*Washington Post*)
http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/why-are-some-depressed-others-resilient-scientists-home-in-one-part-of-the-brain/2014/06/05/db638498-e83f-11e3-a86b-362fd5443d19_story.html?hpid=z5

Adoption correlated with mental health problems in children, study finds. (*Examiner*)
<http://www.examiner.com/article/adoption-correlated-with-mental-health-problems-children-study-finds>

Summit addresses mental health of teens. (*Washington Post*)
http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/summit-addresses-mental-health-of-teens/2014/06/19/13ea4fce-f7ed-11e3-a606-946fd632f9f1_story.html?tid=pm_local_pop

Reports and Publications

Closing the Gap Between Policy and Reality: Preventing Wrongful Denials and Terminations of Public Benefits in the District of Columbia. (*Jennifer Mezey and Chelsea Sharon of the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, and Wes Rivers of the DC Fiscal Policy Institute*)

This report draws on individual cases (reported by legal and social services organizations) to document and illustrate the systemic breakdowns in the administration of public benefits programs in the District of Columbia. Because the breakdowns illustrated therein are not attributable to any one person, agency, or set of agency employees, they can only be remedied through system-wide planning and change. Accordingly, the report makes recommendations designed to address these problems at a systemic, rather than merely an individual or agency, level.

<http://www.dcfpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/5-22-14-Closing-the-Gap-Final.pdf>

Early Stress Gets Under the Skin: Promising Initiatives to Help Children Facing Chronic Adversity. (*Ross A. Thompson and Ron Haskins, Princeton-Brookings Collaboration*)

This policy brief discusses the reality that many children experience adversity in the form of poverty, abuse or neglect, homelessness, or other conditions that make them vulnerable to the effects of chronic stress. New research reveals that chronic stress alters their rapidly developing biological systems in ways that undermine their ability to succeed in school and in life. The good news is that we have strong evidence for programs and approaches that policy makers could use to help these children overcome the effects of stress. Home visitation and early childhood health care can give parents much-needed support and guidance. Economic aid for low-income families can alleviate the grinding financial stress that many families face. And high-quality child care can offer a safe, warm, and predictable environment amid otherwise chaotic lives.

http://futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/24_01_PolicyBrief.pdf

- Related presentation on podcast: http://7515766d70db9af98b83-7a8dffca7ab41e0acde077bdb93c9343.r43.cf1.rackcdn.com/140507_ChildhoodStress_64K_itunes.mp3

Fiscal Analysis of a Child Welfare Financing Reform Proposal. (*Kerry DeVooght, Sharon Vandivere, and Mae Cooper, Child Trends*)

At the request of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Child Trends conducted analyses pursuant to a child welfare financing reform proposal, as outlined in “When Child Welfare Works: A Working Paper – A Proposal to Finance Best Practices.” This report provides estimates of the federal cost and savings resulting from the major provisions.

<http://www.childtrends.org/?publications=fiscal-analysis-of-child-welfare-financing-reform-proposal>

Housing for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care. (*Robin Dion, Amy Dworsky, Jackie Kauff, and Rebecca Kleinman for the U.S. Dep’t. of Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research*)

Youth who age out of foster care face a variety of challenges during the transition to adulthood. Among the greatest may be achieving housing stability. In fact, several studies published during the past two decades have found high rates of homelessness among former foster youth. Although a number of programs have been developed to address the housing needs of this population, almost nothing about their effect on youth outcomes is known. This report was produced as part of the Housing for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care (HYAOF) study, conducted by Mathematica Policy Research and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and it focuses on the importance of evaluating housing programs for this population, the barriers to evaluating them, and how the field can move forward to build the evidence base in this area

http://www.huduser.org/portal/publications/pdf/youth_hsg_main_report.pdf

Expecting Better: A State-by-State Analysis of Laws That Help New Parents. (*National Partnership for Women and Families*)

The National Partnership for Women and Families present this report assessing and grading the laws that help new mothers and fathers across the country. California and Connecticut posted perfect grades with DC, Maryland, and Virginia came up short.

http://wamu.org/news/14/06/23/how_do_dc_maryland_and_virginia_stack_up_when_it_comes_to_family_friendly_laws

Don't forget about Children's Law Center's Helpline!

Our **Helpline** provides CCAN attorneys with legal information and advice.

- Staffed by CLC attorneys
- Confidential
- Legal information and assistance on general and case-specific topics, such as help identifying resources and services, sample pleadings, and other materials
- All Helpline calls are screened to identify potential conflicts of interest

Call (202) 467-4900 (Option 3) — Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Case Rounds with CLC—Wednesday, July 16, 1:00-2:00, Family Court Conference Room (4224).

Have a tricky case issue that you want to talk about? Case rounds are an opportunity for attorneys to discuss issues and questions that arise in their cases with their peers. Someone might have had a similar problem in a case and can help you think about next steps or best practices for an issue. Children's Law Center hosts case rounds on a bi-monthly basis and the next case rounds will be held in September.

CFSA's New Services for At-Risk and Court-Involved Families—Thursday, July 24, 3:30-5:00 pm at Children's Law Center

Do you have questions about CFSA's new IV-E contracts? Wondering about what services are now available to your clients and families? Come listen to Debra Porchia-Usher, Deputy Director of Community Partnerships, and Tyanna Williams, Community Services Data Analyst discuss CFSA's new contracts, including Project Connect and Home Builders. Bring your questions and concerns. *Please RSVP with Alyssa Patzoldt at apatzoldt@childrenslawcenter.org for this training, but please feel free to attend even if you have not registered in advance.*

Back to School with CLC's Special Education Team—Thursday, August 7, 3:30-5:00 pm at Children's Law Center

Megan Dho and Children's Law Center education team will do their annual "Back to School" training. They will share information on changes in DCPS/OSSE policy and procedure for the upcoming academic year, things to monitor with regards to your client's education, and advocacy tips. This training will prepare attorneys to monitor and advocate for clients in both regular and special education programs. *Please RSVP with Alyssa Patzoldt at apatzoldt@childrenslawcenter.org for this training, but please feel free to attend even if you have not registered in advance.*

Save the Date: Half-Day CCAN Training—August 13, 2015, 9:30-2:30, Family Court Conference Room (4224)

More information to follow!

Now available on CLC's new and improved website! <http://www.childrenslawcenter.org>

- **New Fact Sheet: Medicaid**
- **Practice Kits newly-revised for 2014:**
 - **Practice Kit 2: Permanency and Placement**
 - **Practice Kit 5: Appellate Practice in DC Neglect and Abuse Cases**
 - **Practice Kit 9: College Funding**