

Attorneys needed to represent parents in Child Abuse/Neglect Dependency cases and Termination of Parental Rights trials in Washoe County.

Attorneys must understand state and federal law, policy and regulations including but not limited to:

- Adoption and Safe Families Act
- Indian Child Welfare Act
- Interstate Compact on Placement of Children
- Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act
- Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act
- Foster Care Independence Act
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Education law
- HIPPA
- Immigration law relating to child welfare and child custody
- NRS 432B Protection of Children From Abuse and Neglect
- NRS 128 Termination of Parental Rights
- NRS 159 Guardianships.

Representation requires attorney to attend, engage and advise a parent at case planning meetings and advocate for appropriate social services using a multi-disciplinary approach to achieve reunification or another permanency plan. Representation may include meetings with service providers who counsel parents and their children. Attorneys must have an understanding of child development and family dynamics; substance abuse and the cycle of use, dependency, and recovery; adult mental health diagnosis and treatment; juvenile treatment of mental health and use of psychotropic medication; domestic violence, effects on children, families and its treatment; foster care standards

and regulation; and visitation planning that is developmentally appropriate and supports reunification and parenting skills.

Court hearings include protective custody hearings, adjudication of petition alleging child abuse or neglect, dispositional hearing, review hearings, permanency hearings, no reasonable efforts hearings, and attendance at child mental health commitment hearings. Dependency and termination of parental rights cases may include court ordered or informal mediation. Attorneys must be able to draft post adoption contracts in behalf of parents. If a parent is participating in Family Drug Court, the attorney may be required to appear at review hearings 1-4 times a month and participate in pre-court review of parent progress. Dependency cases may require ongoing representation for 24 months or longer. Compensation is \$800 per case regardless of length of representation.

If interested, please contact Jennifer Lunt at 775-328-3969 or email: jlunt@washoecounty.us; or Robert C Bell, Appointed Counsel Administrator, at 775-786-0180 or email: libertybell326@att.net.

For more information on this demanding practice area see American Bar Association Parent Representation Standards at:

http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/migrated/child/parentrepresentation/parent_standards_passed.doc