



Fact Sheet

What is the Children's Justice Project (CJP)?

The mission of the Wyoming Children's Justice Project is to assure timely and fair outcomes for abused and neglected children who are before the juvenile courts. CJP was established in 1999 as a project of the Wyoming Supreme Court. The Chief Justice appoints an advisory council to set policy and oversee the work of CJP. The project is funded by federal court improvement grants administered by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The federal grant program was established in 1994 as a response to the dramatic increase in child abuse and neglect cases and the expanded role of courts in achieving stable and permanent homes for children in foster care. All 50 states receive federal court improvement grant funding.

CJP Past /Ongoing Initiatives

- *Assessed Juvenile Court System (2000 & 2006)
- *Sponsors numerous trainings for juvenile court stakeholders
- *Sponsors annual Children's Justice Conference
- *Develops/maintains resources including a child and teen handbook of juvenile court; parent handbook of juvenile court, WY Child Welfare Legal Resource Manual, court forms/checklists, and bi-monthly newsletter
- *Funded pilot projects in Albany, Carbon & Sweetwater Counties
- *Funded ABA Permanency Barriers Projects in Natrona and Laramie Counties
- *Funds community training and CASA sub-grants
- *Provides training scholarships to judges and attorneys
- *Piloting JCATS, a court data collection automated system for juvenile cases

CJP Future Initiatives

- *Study parent legal representation & develop a DVD for parents involved in juvenile court system
- *Develop a children's activity book on juvenile court for ages 3-6

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