

RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER #91-11

RE: INDIGENT DEFENSE

In order to reduce the cost of indigent defense and maintain a high quality of service, the Supreme Court has entered into an agreement with the Public Defender to provide representation to indigent parents who have been charged with dependency, neglect or abuse in Kent, Washington and Newport Counties. This agreement will take effect on September 7, 1991.

Pursuant to this agreement, the Public Defender will be assigned all new dependency, neglect and abuse petitions filed in Kent, Washington and Newport Counties as of September 7, 1991. All post-adjudication cases of this type (reviews) will be reassigned to the Public Defender as of October 1, 1991. All cases of this type with trial dates in September will be handled by the attorney who has been appointed by the court, but as of October 1, 1991 all such cases will also be reassigned to the Public Defender.

If an attorney appointed by the court wants to continue with a case pro bono, he/she should send a letter to that effect to the Chief Judge of the Rhode Island Family Court. If not, he/she should prepare a transmittal memo of the activity in the case(s) to date and send the memo(s) and case file(s) to the office of the Public Defender by October 1.

If an attorney believes there is a possible conflict with the Public Defender representing a client, he/she should indicate this in a letter to the Public Defender. If there is a conflict, the attorney will retain the file and notify the Chief Judge that in fact he/she will be continuing to handle the case.

When attorneys turn over their files to the Public Defender, they should submit a final bill to the Administrative Office of State Courts.


Date Aug. 27 1991

Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr.
Chief Judge