

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

2022-2023



Judicial Council

Mission Statement

To oversee the delivery of effective legal representation to indigent NH residents in criminal, child protection and guardianship court proceedings and to engage in public/private partnerships for civil legal services.

Members of the Judicial Council

Pursuant to RSA 494:1, the Judicial Council is comprised of the following members:

- The 4 members of the judicial branch administrative council, appointed pursuant to Supreme Court rules.
- The attorney general or designee.
- A clerk of the superior court, selected by the chief justice of the superior court.
- A clerk of the circuit court, selected by the administrative judge of the circuit court.
- The president-elect of the New Hampshire Bar Association.
- The chairperson of the senate judiciary committee or a designee from such committee appointed by the chairperson.
- The chairperson of the house judiciary committee or a designee from such committee appointed by the chairperson.
- Eight other members appointed by the governor and council, 3 of whom shall be members of the New Hampshire Bar Association of wide experience who have been admitted to practice in the state for more than 5 years, and 5 of whom shall be members of the public who are not lawyers.
- Five other members appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court, 3 of whom shall be members of the New Hampshire Bar Association of wide experience who have been admitted to practice in the state for more than 5 years, and 2 of whom shall be members of the public who are not lawyers.

Current Members of the Council

Supreme Court Justice	The Hon. James Bassett
Superior Court Chief Justice	The Hon. Tina Nadeau
Circuit Court Administrative Judge	The Hon. David King
Administrative Office of the Courts Director	Christopher Keating
Senate Judiciary Chair	Senator Sharon Carson
House Judiciary Chair	Representative Claire Rouillard
Attorney General	Gordon MacDonald
President Elect of the Bar	Edward Philpot
Clerk of the Superior Court	Karen Gorham
Clerk of the Circuit Court	Gina Belmont

8 members appointed by Governor and Council, 3 of whom shall be Bar members:

Attorney Daniel Will
Attorney Philip Utter
Attorney Brian J.X. Murphy
Kimberly Casey
Steven Lubrano
Dino Scala
Dr. Alan Seidman

5 members appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, 3 of whom shall be Bar members:

Attorney Stephanie Bray
Attorney John Durkin
Attorney Richard Samdperil
Nina Gardner (Chair)
Stephen Reno

Standing Committees

Indigent Defense Subcommittee

Attorney Phil Utter
Attorney John Durkin
Attorney Christopher Keating
Attorney Richard Samdperil

Child Protection Subcommittee

Dr. Alan Seidman
The Hon. Kris Spath
Gina Belmont
Nina Gardner
Attorney Christopher Keating

Executive Committee

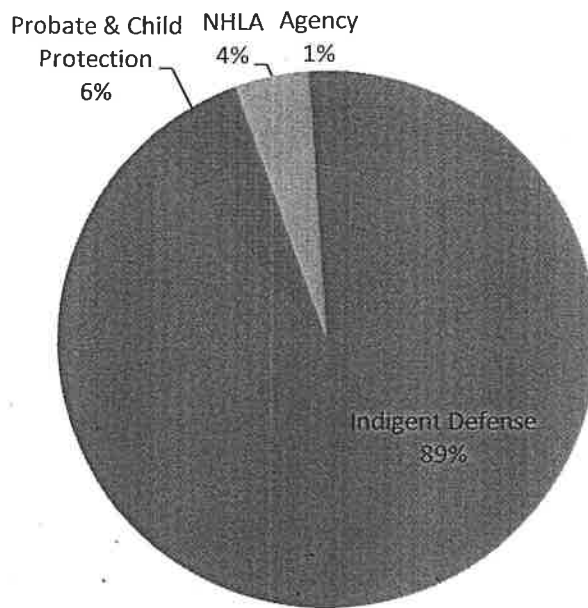
The Hon. Tina Nadeau
Kimberly Casey
Attorney Daniel Will
Attorney Christopher Keating
Nina Gardner

New Hampshire Judicial Council

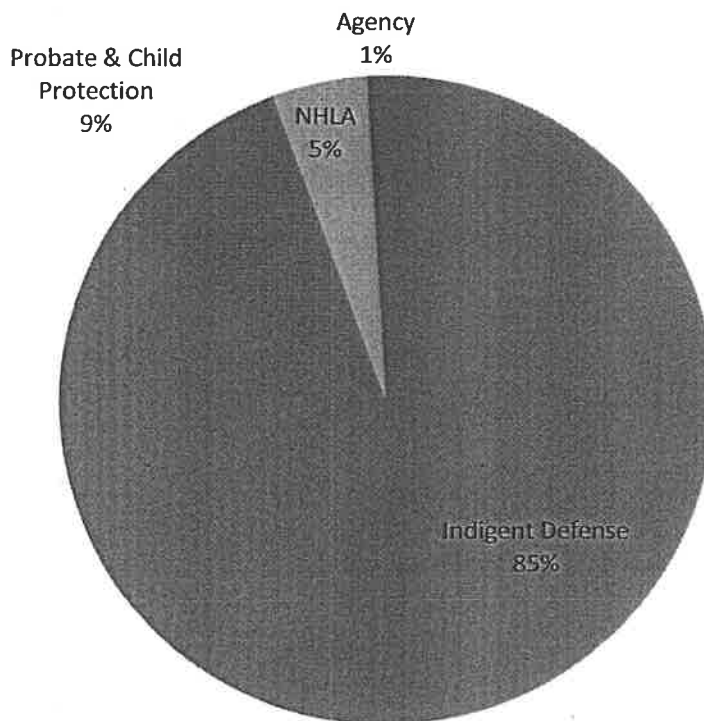
Budget History

		FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Appropriation	FY 2022 Efficiency Budget	FY 2022 Prioritized Needs	FY 2023 Efficiency Budget	FY 2023 Prioritized Needs
1091	Assigned Counsel Representation in criminal and delinquency cases Representation for parents in abuse & neglect cases	603,229	973,978	1,305,598	1,877,368	1,729,981	1,697,613	1,449,091	1,480,000	1,480,000	NONE	1,480,000	NONE
1092	GAL Fund Representation for proposed wards in guardianship proceedings Representation for parents in termination-of-parental-rights cases Non-CASA G.A.L. services for children in termination-of-parental-rights cases Representation for parents in supreme court cases for termination-of-parental rights cases	458,696	484,357	425,065	426,053	563,029	775,495	754,812	508,050	508,050	241,950	508,050	241,950
1093	Contract Attorneys Representation in criminal and delinquency cases	1,801,384	1,666,630	1,811,153	1,744,800	2,300,927	1,958,224	1,761,125	2,033,000	2,033,000	NONE	2,033,000	NONE
*1094	NH Public Defender Representation in criminal and delinquency cases	18,875,447	19,541,710	19,541,710	20,127,961	21,189,719	22,215,177	23,119,355	23,751,832	23,751,832	NONE	23,751,832	NONE
1097	Agency Budget	275,484	286,658	246,113	280,544	301,212	280,365	325,963	384,682	352,041	5,755	367,174	5,728
1098	NH Legal Assistance Civil legal services for the poor	1,100,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	NONE	1,500,000	NONE
*1099	CASA Guardians ad Litem G.A.L. services for children in abuse & neglect cases G.A.L. services for children in termination-of-parental-rights cases	494,000	539,000	589,000	639,000	639,000	639,000	798,750	926,550	926,550	NONE	926,550	NONE
1101	Non-CASA Guardians ad Litem G.A.L. services for children in abuse & neglect cases	148,192	113,446	160,547	225,552	304,972	381,218	358,893	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000.00	150,000
1103	Services Other than Counsel Ancillary services in criminal and delinquency cases	848,350	897,589	872,711	1,211,862	1,379,971	1,931,238	1,879,899	1,030,000	1,030,000	483,129	1,030,000.00	467,966
	TOTALS	24,604,782	25,703,368	26,151,898	27,733,139	29,608,811	31,078,331	31,947,887	31,764,114	31,731,473	880,834	31,746,606	865,644

FY14 Expenditures



FY20 Expenditures



Opinion > Columns

My Turn: COVID-19 and children without a safety net

By MOIRA O'NEILL

For the Monitor

Published: 3/25/2020 8:46:30 AM

The governor, administration officials and members of the health care industry are tasked with many calls to take action during the COVID-19 public health crisis. We at the Office of the Child Advocate now also call on neighbors, family, friends and local community members to do their part to protect children during these unprecedented times. They have lost their safety net.

On any given day, family functioning can be threatened by a litany of factors. When parents or caregivers lose the ability to cope with economic adversities, loss of employment, physical and mental illness, housing instability and other hardships, the effects on children can be devastating, even deadly.

There is a wide safety net for children woven together by teachers, vigilant school nurses and guidance counselors, child care workers, pediatric providers and after-school programs. The adults who populate a child's life all day are watching for signs of distress from abuse or neglect. But in the time of COVID-19, school closures and service shutdowns, children are walking a tightrope without a safety net.

Top Articles



While calls to the National Parent Helpline for families in crisis have spiked 30% in the past week, New Hampshire's Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) is starting to see a drop in calls reporting suspected abuse or neglect. Other states are seeing this too.

I wish that were good news, but it is likely not. If families are experiencing increasing stress of round-the-clock child care, disrupted family routines, economic worries of unemployment and the great unknown of a potentially lethal virus, children are undoubtedly at increased risk to feel the brunt of that stress.

We have to acknowledge that children at home, out of sight, during increasingly stressful times, are at increased risk of abuse or neglect. We must *all* be alert and watchful for signs.

Here is how you can help: Call, email, text, video chat or shout over the fence from next door, "How's the remote learning going at home? You doing okay?"

Check in with parents you know are home with their children. Acknowledge their stress and compliment their efforts, however small. Offer suggestions for meaningful, stress-reducing activities such as taking a walk, listening and dancing to music, playing a game or watching a funny show. Parents and children alike may just need to talk, let them know you are there to listen, despite the distance.

If parents appear to be struggling, be sure they know where they can get help: Urge them to call the 211 Infoline for local resources, DCYF to report concerning stress levels, New Hampshire's chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI-NH) at 225-5359, or the Childhelp Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD to speak or text with a crisis counselor.

Despite all of the uncertainty, and because of it, be sure families know this will end. Everyone needs hope to get through a rough time.

Finally, we must remember that every citizen in New Hampshire is a mandated reporter of suspected child abuse or neglect. If you are not clear what that means, check out the Know and Tell Initiative at Knowandtell.org. Know & Tell provides information about how to recognize signs of child abuse or neglect and what to do about it. They offer an excellent on-line training course – take the time to complete it.

if you are unsure, let the experts figure it out and call DCYF at 271-6362 or (800) 894-5533 (in-state only). Often DCYF supports can be offered to families who are at risk through community-based voluntary services. The Office of the Child Advocate is also here to help at 271-7773.

We may be asked to remain home and limit our contact with each other, but we are still one community. The safety net we weave should be one that prevents child abuse, neglect and family breakdown.

(Moirá O'Neill is the director of the Office of the Child Advocate, an independent agency created to provide oversight of DCYF and promote the best interest of children.)