

Transferring cases involving Children in Need of Protection and Services, Termination of Parental Rights and juvenile guardianships from the District Attorney's Office to the Corporation Counsel Office

WHEREAS, the District Attorney's Office represents the interest of the public in Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) cases under Section 48.13 to 48.16, Wis. Stats.; juvenile guardianship cases under 48.977 and Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) cases under Section 48.40 to 48.435, Wis. Stats; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 48.09, Wis. Stats., the County Board of Supervisors may transfer this authority to or from the District Attorney if the action is effective September 1 of an odd-numbered year and the board notifies the department of administration of that change by January 1 of that odd-numbered year; and

WHEREAS, since August, 2010, Termination of Parental Rights cases have been prosecuted by the District Attorney with the assistance of a special prosecutor appointed by the District Attorney, and

WHEREAS, the contracted outside legal counsel serving as special prosecutor has been funded in part through a grant awarded to the Jefferson County Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, the number of Children in Need of Protection and Services has steadily increased; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Jefferson County Human Services Board that cases involving Children in Need of Protection and Services, Termination of Parental Rights and juvenile guardianships be transferred from the District Attorney's Office to the Corporation Counsel Office which will reduce the need to contract with outside legal counsel to prosecute these cases.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 48.09 Wis. Stats. the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors authorizes the transfer of the authority to represent the public interest in prosecuting Children in Need of Protection and Services cases under 48.13 to 48.16, Guardianship cases under 48.977 and Termination of Parental Rights cases under 48.40 to 48.435 from the District Attorney's Office to the Office of Corporation Counsel to be effective September 1, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be filed with the Wisconsin Department of Administration upon passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that publication of this resolution may occur through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.