



**Supreme Court**  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
*New Orleans*

CHIEF JUSTICE  
CATHERINE D. KIMBALL Fifth District  
JUSTICES  
GREG G. GUIDRY First District  
JEFFREY P. VICTORY Second District  
JEANNETTE THERIOT KNOLL Third District  
MARCUS R. CLARK Fourth District  
JOHN L. WEIMER Sixth District  
BERNETTE J. JOHNSON Seventh District

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: JUDGES EXERCISING JUVENILE JURISDICTION**

**FROM: CHIEF JUSTICE CATHERINE D. KIMBALL**

**DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2009**

**RE: NEW SYSTEM OF REPRESENTATION IN  
CHILD PROTECTION CASES**

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Please be advised that a new statewide system for representation of children and indigent parents in all child abuse and neglect cases will be implemented starting **January 1, 2010**. This is responsive to an unanticipated urgency to expedite the original 5 year statewide implementation plan in order to ensure continued availability of state funds for this legally mandated representation.

**State** funded representation under this system will require that, in all *new* cases involving the abuse or neglect of children filed in your jurisdiction after December 31, indigent parents be represented by the public defenders' office and children be represented by either the regional legal services corporation or the Mental Health Advocacy Service Child Advocacy Program. (See map attached hereto.) **New** appointments of counsel made otherwise will *not* be eligible for state payment.

This new system does **not** preclude courts from appointing qualified non-system attorneys for children and/or their indigent parents in child abuse and neglect cases, but both the court and the attorneys must understand the appointments to be either on a *pro bono* basis or payable from local or other independent resources available to compensate the attorneys.

For cases that were **filed prior to January 1**, attorneys appointed for indigent parents and children will continue to represent their clients. Attorneys who are paid under the current DSS system can continue submitting requests for payment to DSS through June 30, 2010.

It is imperative that judicial appointment of counsel in child abuse and neglect cases be made in accordance with this new system if the court expects state payment for representation. The local defender offices, legal services and Mental Health Advocacy programs should be contacting each court to discuss docketing and other court expectations and to provide contact and other information. Attorneys for parents or children who have been billing DSS under the existing system will be receiving official notice from DSS. Attorneys who have represented parents and/or children in your court are encouraged to meet with the local defender offices, legal services program or MHAS program to discuss continued involvement in child abuse and neglect proceedings.

The expedited time frame required for implementation of this new system will be a challenge for all stakeholders in the child protection system. Nevertheless, this is a real opportunity to improve outcomes for all of our foster children across the state during a time of economic downsizing in Louisiana. Please be assured that this new system will be rigorously monitored and held accountable to provide qualified legal representation for these children and their indigent parents.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Catherine D. Kimball".

Chief Justice Catherine D. Kimball

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CHILDREN'S REPRESENTATION

### LSC Offices

Joseph (Joe) Oelkers III, Executive Director  
Acadiana Legal Services Corporation  
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James (Jim) Wayne, Sr., Executive Director  
Capital Area Legal Services Corporation  
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Executive Director  
Louisiana Bar Foundation  
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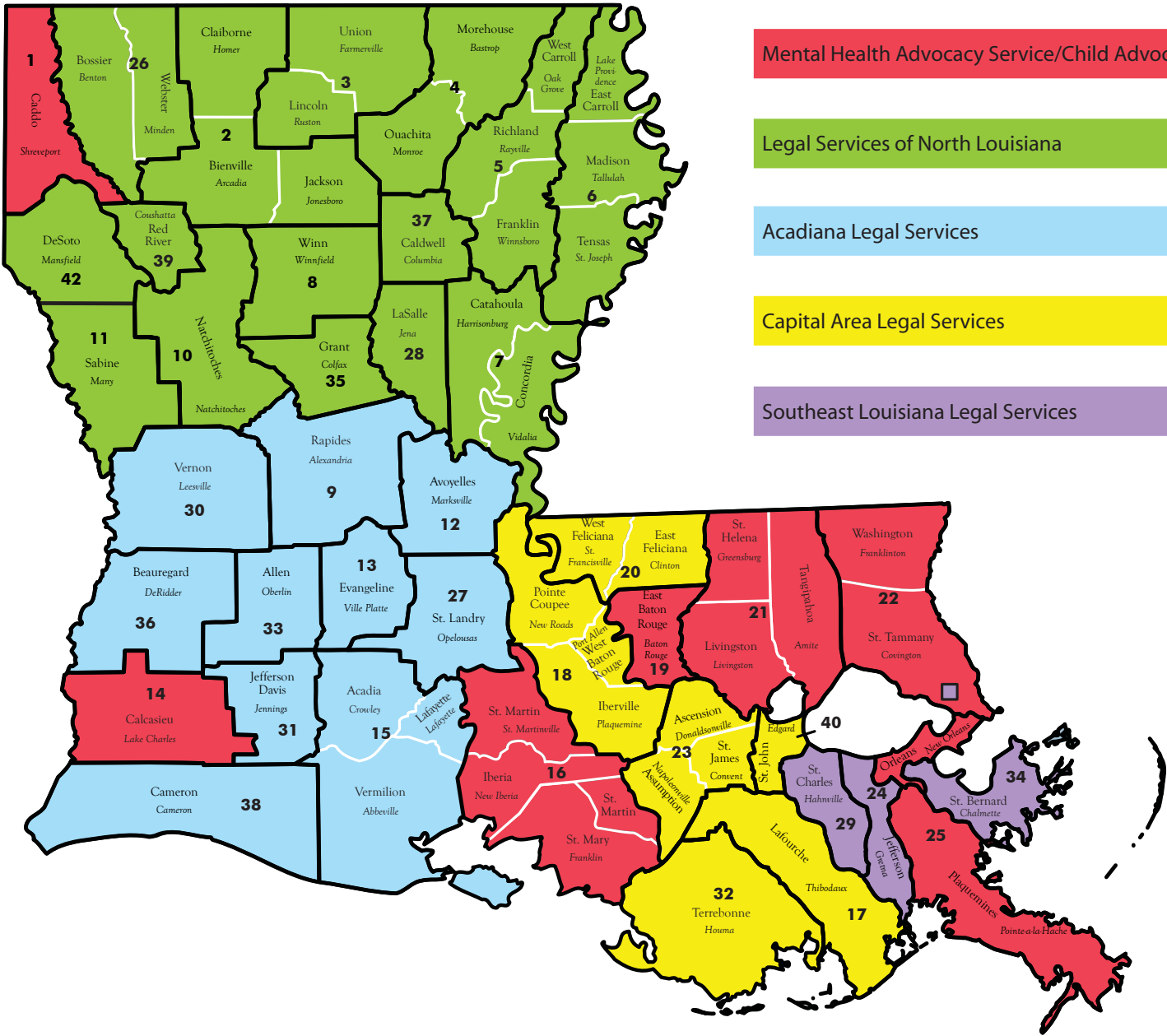
### MHAS/CAP Offices

Kevin Robshaw  
225-342-6678  
Baton Rouge Juvenile Court  
21 st. JDC - Livingston Parish,  
St. Helena Parish  
Denham Springs City Court

Joseph Seyler  
318-676-7332  
Caddo Parish Juvenile Court

Kathy Cook  
337-262-2030  
14<sup>th</sup> JDC - Calcasieu Family Court,  
Sulpher City Court  
16<sup>th</sup> JDC

Margot Hammond  
504-896-2610  
22<sup>nd</sup> JDC - St. Tammany Parish,  
Washington Parish, Bogalusa City Court  
21<sup>st</sup> JDC - Tangipahoa Parish  
25<sup>th</sup> JDC - Plaquemines  
41<sup>st</sup> JDC - Orleans Parish Juvenile Court



Mental Health Advocacy Service/Child Advocacy Program

Legal Services of North Louisiana

Acadiana Legal Services

Capital Area Legal Services

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services