

State of Florida Department of Children and Families

Jeb Bush Governor

Lucy D. Hadi Secretary

March 31, 2006

The Honorable Barbara J. Pariente Chief Justice Florida Supreme Court 500 South Duvall Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Chief Justice Pariente:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and offer comment on the proposed amendments to the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure during this regular-cycle reporting period. As Director of the Office of Family Safety, I have a particular interest in reviewing and monitoring rule changes as they relate to dependency court proceedings. It is very encouraging to acknowledge that the committee has endeavored to incorporate the principles of the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act in the revisions to the rules. This is evidenced by their amendatory language that ensures further safeguards on due process issues as it relates to both children and parents in dependency court proceedings. These revisions also reflect the recent changes in Florida Statues governing child protection proceedings.

As the representative for the department on the Florida Supreme Court Committee on Families and Children in the Court, I look forward to our continued collaboration on child protection issues as we strive for standards of excellence for those we serve.

Respectfully yours,

Beth Englander Director Office of Family Safety

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