



Statewide Centralized Law Offices

State	Branch of Government	Name of Organization	Clients	Type of Lawyers	Infrastructure / Regional Offices	Funding	Multi-disciplinary Team?	Strategies for Quality	Data Collection Systems	Data Tracked	Solicits Client Feedback?
AK	Public Defense System	Office of Public Advocacy	Children and parents	Staff and contract attorneys	Regional offices and contract attorneys located throughout the State of Alaska	State, Federal	No	Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews	Defender by Karpel and Infoview	N/A	No
AR	Government agency within the judicial branch	Dependency-Neglect Attorney Ad Litem Program, part of the Juvenile Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts	Children	Staff and contract attorneys	No, attorneys are throughout the State. In some higher population areas, some full-time staff attorneys share an office.	State	N/A	Maximum case load caps, Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews	DNet (built internally). This will be replaced by a new system within the next few years.	Time to permanency, Outcomes, Attorney caseload counts.	Yes
CO	Independent government agency within the judicial branch	Office of the Child's Representative	Children	Staff and contract attorneys	The office has just one regional office that preexisted OCR and was included through legislation. It is the only office with employee attorneys who do direct service. All other direct service attorneys are contract attorneys.	State, Federal	Social Workers	Maximum case load caps, Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews.	A proprietary case management and billing system the office developed with a local contractor. Attorneys are required to put child information into the system and bill for activities through it which allows OCR to track data related to youth contact, initial visits, child counts, etc. Attorneys are paid through this system.	Youth participation in court.	Yes

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CT	Public Defense System	Office of the Public Defenders	Children and parents	Staff and contract attorneys	No. Most attorneys are contracted and have their own practices. The few that work for the agency have offices in the courthouse.	State	No, Working on getting social workers	Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews. Staff attorneys to handle complex cases and appeals.	N/A	N/A	Yes
DE	Independent government agency within judicial branch	Office of the Child Advocate	Children	Staff, contract, pro bono	The agency has an office in each of the three Counties and most staff are practicing statewide.	State, Federal, Philanthropy	Social Workers	Maximum case load caps, Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews	Data system called Apricot and is used by our office as well as system partners (with limited access).	Numerous outcomes are tracked. To name a few: entry reasons (primary and secondary), length of time in care, permanency plans, reason for exit.	No

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ID	Public Defense System	Alternate Counsel Division of the State Public Defender	Children and parents	Staff and contract attorneys	Yes. If an institutional office represents a child or parent in an existing juvenile or criminal case, the office is assigned to represent the child or parent in the child protection case also.	State, Federal	Available to contractors and institutional staff upon request.	The office is new, with plans to implement strategies but nothing in place in late 2024.	Legal server	Access to all data about a case because Legal Server holds the case file electronically.	No
IA	Independent government agency within the executive branch	Office of the State Public Defender	Children and parents	Staff and contract attorneys	Yes, 19 regional offices across the state	State, Federal	Social Worker, Investigator	Mandatory training, Standards of practice, Routine performance reviews	Statewide case management system and a partnership with the Iowa Judicial Branch which tracks case filing data	"Various"	Yes



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LA	Nonprofit/civil legal aid program	The Child Advocacy Program has three subcontractor offices who represent children: Southeast Louisiana Legal Services , Acadiana Legal Services Corporation , and Mental Health Advocacy Services .	Children	Staff and contract attorneys	Yes for all 3 offices. Offices are usually in larger cities in the state and may have managing attorneys or supervising attorneys.	State, Federal, Philanthropic	Social Worker, Peer Partner, Investigator, but this varies by each office.	Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews. One of three offices has caseload caps.	Legal Server	Permanency outcomes, client meetings, client attendance, hearing type and attorney/substitute attorney attended, foster parent attendance.	N/A
MA	Independent government agency within the judicial branch	Children and Family Law Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services	Children and parents	Staff and contract attorneys	10 trial offices and 1 appellate office	State	Social Worker, Peer Partner	Maximum case load caps, Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews	N/A	N/A	No



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MN	Public Defense System	Minnesota Board of Public Defense - "6 of our ten district offices have centralized services."	Children	Staff attorneys	Yes. We are a statewide public defender organization with district offices. Some of the district offices have dedicated juvenile units that represent kids in juvenile and child protection cases.	State	Social Worker, Peer Partner, Investigator, paralegals, legal office assistants	Routine performance reviews	N/A	Case numbers	No

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MT	Public Defense System	The Family Defense Bureau , a unit within the Montana Office of the State Public Defender	Children and parents	Staff and contract attorneys	Montana has a centralized office to intake every new removal. From there, conflict checks are run and the Family Defense Bureau takes one party. The conflict division typically accepts another party. The remaining party, often the child, is represented by a private contract attorney.	State, Federal	N/A	Maximum case load caps (only for staff attorneys, not contract attorneys), Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews	Advo OPD, which is a case management system built on the Sales Force platform.	Disposition, Placement, ICWA status	No
NJ	Public Defense System	NJ Office of the Public Defender	Children and parents	Staff and contract attorneys	Yes. There are two units within OPD, Office of Law Guardian and Office of Parental Representation , they are managed separately and both agencies have separate offices in each county.	State, Federal	Investigator, and some parental representation offices have social workers, some law guardian investigators are social workers.	Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews.	Infoshare database.	Ultimate case outcomes.	Yes

Table includes information gathered through stakeholder self-report. Please send any corrections to Natalece.Washington@NACCchildlaw.org Version 3/2025.

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NM	Independent government agency within the executive branch	Office of Family Representation and Advocacy	Children and parents	Staff and contract attorneys	Central office will open in 2025. Four additional regional offices will open in the coming years.	State, Federal	Social worker, Peer Partner, hiring investigators spring 2025	Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews. Caseload caps are aspirational presently, working on other review measures	Implementation in process. Currently spreadsheets and data sharing with administrative office of the courts and state agency.	No, but will once case management system in place	No
NC	Government agency within the judicial branch	Guardian ad Litem Program	Children	Staff, contract, pro bono	Regional Offices at the trial level, centralized office for appeals	State	Guardian ad Litem Volunteer	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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ND	Public Defense System	North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents	Children and parents	Staff and contract attorneys	Yes, North Dakota uses six regional offices across the state. It also uses private attorneys as independent contractors as required by statute.	State	Only one office currently has an investigator. The program is working on getting investigators in each office, but they do not currently have them.	Maximum case load caps, Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews. The office employs a complaint system allowing parents or children to file a complaint with the central administrative office regarding their counsel's performance.	A system built by the state government wherein all case data is entered when a case is assigned by a central administrative office. When the case is closed, the attorney enters that information into the same system.	Date Closed, Reason Closed, Case Hours, Travel Hours, Comments regarding disposition.	Yes

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OK	Nonprofit/civil legal aid program	Oklahoma Office of Family Representation	Children and parents	Contract attorneys	FR utilizes Regional Offices (based upon the child welfare agency's regions). Each Regional Office has 2 managing attorneys (1 for child, 1 for parent) to manage contract attorneys providing direct and appellate representation and a director of social work to manage mentors and social workers.	State, Federal, Philanthropic	Social worker, Peer Partner.	Maximum case load caps, Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews.	LegalServer	Limited data collection to about 21 required inputs - primary demographic information. Additional information that is case specific can be obtained from the child welfare agency by requiring contract attorneys to track the child welfare identification (KK number) in their case. The office asks that attorney provide their initial date of contact and update their most recent date of contact with the client.	No
RI	Government agency within the judicial branch	Office of the Court Appointed Special Advocate	Children	Staff attorneys	Yes	State	Social worker	Mandatory training, Standards of Practice	Odyssey	N/A	No

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UT	Independent government agency within the judicial branch	Utah Office of Guardian ad Litem & CASA	Children	Staff attorneys	One fully staffed centralized office in each of the 8 judicial districts.	State, Federal	Social worker, Investigator	Maximum case load caps, Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews	Electronic case management system unique to the office.	N/A	Yes
VT	Public Defense System	Office of the Defender General / Juvenile Division	Children and parents	Staff and contract attorneys	Central office in Montpelier, and county offices in each of the 14 counties.	N/A	Social worker, Investigator, Expert services as requested	Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews.	Advologix	Just implemented system, outcome tracking still undetermined.	No



WA	Independent government agency within the judicial branch	Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid's Children's Representation Program	Children	Contract attorneys	The office does not provide any sort of direct legal representation. It is expressly prohibited by statute (see e.g. RCW 2.53.020(4)). However, pursuant to RCW 2.53.045, it has a duty to monitor and oversee contracted attorney performance. It does this by employing "managing attorneys" who are assigned ~30-35 contractors according to region (e.g. SW Washington, central Washington, etc). They observe contractors in court, review redacted pleadings, provide technical support and coaching, track compliance with	State, Federal	"Expert service" funds available for attorneys to engage private social workers, investigators, medical experts, mental health professionals, etc.	Maximum case load caps, Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews. Office ensures it produces enough free CLEs throughout the year, both in-person and virtual, so that attorneys have no barriers to meeting their mandatory training requirements. Office also provides technical support & coaching.	Justice Work's "Defender Data" system	Time to case resolution; type of resolution; number and types of hours worked.	Yes
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					training requirements, and conduct regular performance reviews.						
WI	Independent government agency within the executive branch	Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office	Children and parents	Staff and contract attorneys	Several regional offices. Regional and local managers.	State	Investigator, Client Services Specialist	Mandatory training, Routine performance reviews	N/A	N/A	N/A
WY	Government agency within the executive branch	Wyoming Office of Guardian ad Litem	Children	Staff and contract attorneys	The Wyoming Office of Guardian ad Litem has 5 field office around that state that has state employees and/or contractors that represent children.	State, Federal	Uses social workers and peer advocates as part of the GAL's independent legal investigation.	Maximum case load caps, Mandatory training, Standards of Practice, Routine performance reviews	The Office of GAL has its own case management system. It also utilizes data tracked by our state child welfare agency and our Children's Justice Program.	Case length, timeliness to permanency, timeliness of hearings, case loads, TPRs, appeals, etc.	Yes