



**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 Statutes 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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Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency