

115 STATE STREET  
MONTPELIER, VT 05633  
TEL: (802) 828-2228  
FAX: (802) 828-2424



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

REP. MAXINE GRAD, CHAIR  
REP. CHARLES CONQUEST, VICE CHAIR  
REP. THOMAS BURDITT, RANKING MEMBER  
REP. SELENE COLBURN  
REP. EILEEN DICKINSON  
REP. KIMBERLY JESSUP  
REP. MARTIN LALONDE  
REP. RUQAIYAH "KIAH" MORRIS  
REP. BARBARA RACHELSON  
REP. GARY VIENS  
REP. JANSSEN WILLHOIT

February 20, 2018

Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge  
111 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Judge Grearson:

The House Committee on Judiciary would like to see the Court Administrator's Office encourage judges and attorneys involved with the CHINS docket to receive training in issues related to childhood trauma. Any process, such as an administrative hearing, that requires children to relive traumatic experiences causes renewed trauma for the affected children. In addition to being painful in the moment, this trauma has the potential to set back a child's recovery from the initial trauma.

To encourage a full understanding and appreciation of this trauma, we would like to see any judges presiding over a CHINS docket receive training related to childhood trauma within one year after beginning to preside over this docket. Likewise, we would like to see your office encourage any attorney with more than 25 percent of his or her court practice in the CHINS docket to attend similar training in issues related to childhood trauma.

Sincerely,

Representative Maxine Grad, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary