



Task Force on the Dependency & Neglect Court System

68th Montana Legislature

AGENDA

October 25, 2023

State Capitol, Room 137 and Zoom

PLEASE NOTE:

- All times are approximate; some items may take more or less time than allotted.
- The agenda may be adjusted at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- See page 3 of this agenda for information on accessibility and public participation.

- 9:00 a.m. **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
Senior Senator – Sen. Dennis Lenz
- 9:05 a.m. **2. Task Force Member Introductions**
 - Brief introductions
- 9:15 a.m. **3. Election of Presiding Officers**
Sen. Dennis Lenz
 - Nominations
 - Elections
- 9:30 a.m. **4. Task Force Rules and Procedures**
Milly Allen, Staff
 - Presentation
 - Task force questions, discussion, and edits
 - Public comment on rules and procedures
 - Task force adoption of rules and procedures
- 10:00 a.m. **5. Montana Courts & Dependency and Neglect Caseload**
Beth McLaughlin, Court Administrator, Montana Supreme Court
 - Presentation
 - Task force questions and discussion
 - Public comment on Montana courts as related to dependency and neglect cases
 - Task force action, if any
- 11:30 a.m. **6. Initial Review of Task Force Work Plan**
Milly Allen, Staff
 - Presentation
 - Task force questions, discussion, and edits
 - Public comment on work plan
 - Task force adopts meeting schedule

- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 2:00 p.m. **7. Family Friendly Dependency and Neglect Courts**
Jill Yordy, Senior Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislatures
Walker Stevens, Policy Associate, National Conference of State Legislatures
Hannah Ditzenberger, Policy Associate, National Conference of State Legislatures
- Presentation
 - Task force questions and discussion
 - Public comment on family friendly dependency and neglect courts
 - Task force action, if any
- 3:30 p.m. **8. Public Comment** on any matter within the scope of the task force not on this agenda.
- 4:00 p.m. **Break**
- 4:15 p.m. **9. Work Session**
Presiding Officer
- Discussion of commission priorities
 - Agenda items and topics for next meeting from SB 182, section 2
(Presiding Officer and Ms. Allen)
- 5:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

TASK FORCE MATERIALS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Download meeting materials, view a list of committee members, and sign up for meeting notices on the task force website: <https://leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/court-system-dependency-neglect-task-force/>

ACCESSIBILITY

The Montana Legislative Services Division will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. Please contact Dan Messerli to request accommodations as soon as possible:

Dan Messerli
(406) 444-4456
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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public comment deadline: October 24, 5:00 p.m.

The public may attend the meeting and offer public comment in the Capitol, remotely via Zoom, or in writing. The presiding officer will announce opportunities for public comment. Please note that the council may be ahead or behind the agenda when it is time for public comment.

To testify remotely, register online by 5:00 p.m. the business day before a meeting. You will receive an email with login information by 11:59 p.m. the night before the meeting.
<https://leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/court-system-dependency-neglect-task-force/remote-participation-csdn-task-force/>

Written comments may be mailed or sent via the online form. Comments provided by 5:00 p.m. the business day before a meeting will be provided to the committee at that meeting; comments received after this deadline will be distributed at the next meeting.

Online form for written comment: <https://leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/court-system-dependency-neglect-task-force/public-comments-csdn-task-force/>

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