



## Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

# News

Administrative Office  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Bldg. 1, Room E-316  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305  
(304) 340-2305 Jennifer Bundy  
(304) 340-2306 April Harless  
(304) 558-4219 / TTY  
(304) 558-1212 / FAX  
Web Site: <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca>  
Information Services Division  
Email: [Jennifer.bundy@courtwv.gov](mailto:Jennifer.bundy@courtwv.gov)  
Email: [April.harless@courtsww.gov](mailto:April.harless@courtsww.gov)

### Conferences on “Changing Culture for Children’s Safety”

For immediate release Thursday, July 08, 2010

**Huntington, W.Va.** – Attorneys, social workers, judges, probation officers, court-appointed advocates, counselors, nurses, domestic violence advocates, law enforcement officers, and others from around West Virginia are gathering this summer at meetings to learn the latest techniques for working together to help children who have been abused and neglected.

The first two conferences were held June 21-22 at Canaan Valley Resort and June 24-25 at the Martinsburg Holiday Inn. **The final conference will take place July 12-13 at the Big Sandy Arena in Huntington.**

“We are hoping to change the culture in these cases by encouraging people to think outside of the box, to be family-centered, and to work together to help children find permanent, safe homes,” said Nikki Tennis, director of the Supreme Court’s Division of Children’s Services.

The two-day seminars are sponsored by the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, its Court Improvement Program, and the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Attendees are learning the procedure of a Chapter 49 child abuse and neglect case. They are receiving the latest updates on child abuse and neglect law, exploring specialized topics, and learning how to collaborate across disciplines to identify and address child abuse and neglect.

Speakers include a circuit judge, a family court judge, attorneys who specialize in child abuse and neglect cases, prosecutors, a public defender, a psychiatrist, a foster parent, and officials from the West Virginia Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Resources’ Bureau for Children and Families.

The meetings are open to the press. **They are closed to the public because registration was required due to the capacity of approximately 200 at each location, which has been reached. There is a waiting list for attendance.**

The West Virginia Court Improvement Program is funded through the federal Administration for Children and Families and the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia. For more information on the program, visit its website at [www.wvcip.com](http://www.wvcip.com).

##