**FriDay, jANUARY 8, 2010**

**Events**

**January 21:** Polk County Model Court Training Academy; 12:15, Room 209A, Polk County Courthouse, Des Moines. Free CLEs and CEUs.

**Child News**

**New Legislative Session Begins:** The 83rd Iowa General Assembly convenes at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 11th. This session is scheduled to be an abbreviated one: it is scheduled to last for 80 days rather than the traditional 100 days. Lawmakers would normally receive expense payments for 100 days during an election-year session, but that has been shortened to 80 days due to the budget shortfall. Under that plan, the session will conclude on March 31st. The highlights this week include:

- **10 a.m. Tuesday:** Governor Chet Culver delivers the “Condition of the State” address.
- **10 a.m. Wednesday:** Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Marsha Ternus delivers the “State of the Judiciary” address.

Key dates for the session are as follows:

- **January 11:** First day of session.
- **JANUARY 15**: Final day for individual Senator and Representative requests for bill drafts to the Legislative Services Agency.

- **FEBRUARY 12**: Final date for Senate bills to be reported out of Senate committees (and House bills out of House committees). [First Funnel]

- **FEBRUARY 15—MARCH 12**: Debate not limited by rule.

- **MARCH 5**: Final date for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees (and House bills out of Senate committees). [Second Funnel]

- **MARCH 15**: Only the following bills are eligible for consideration:
  - Appropriations Bills;
  - Ways and Means Bills;
  - Government Oversight Bills;
  - Legalizing Acts;
  - Bills co-sponsored by Majority and Minority Leaders of one House;
  - Companion Bills sponsored by Senate and House Majority Leaders;
  - Conference Committee Reports;
  - Concurrent or Simple Resolutions;
  - Bills passed by both Houses in different forms;
  - Bills on the Veto Calendar;
  - Administrative Rules Review Committee Bills;
  - Committee Bills related to delayed Administrative Rules;
  - Joint Resolutions nullifying Administrative Rules;
  - Unfinished Business.

- **MARCH 31**: 80th calendar day of the session (presumed end of session).

**December Statistical Summary**: During the month of December, the Iowa Supreme Court rendered one opinion in a juvenile case (a delinquency case), and the Iowa Court of Appeals rendered 15 opinions in juvenile cases. Of the 15 Iowa Court of Appeals decisions, 9 were Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) cases, 5 were Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) cases, and 1 was a delinquency case. Here are the results in those cases:
TPR Cases (9): In all of the TPR cases, the parent(s) appealed the trial court’s order terminating parental rights under Chapter 232, and the Court of Appeals affirmed the termination of parental rights in all of those cases.

CINA Cases (5): Review of CINA Adjudications: In one CINA case, the Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court’s order adjudicating the child to be a child in need of Assistance. In another CINA case, the Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court’s adjudication and disposition orders. Review of Permanency Orders: In one CINA case, the Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court’s permanency order placing the child with a relative. In another CINA case, the Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court’s permanency order granting custody and guardianship of the child to a childcare provider. In another CINA case, the Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court’s permanency order transferring placement of the child from the Maternal Grandmother to the father.

Delinquency Cases (2): In a delinquency case, the Iowa Supreme Court affirmed the trial court’s dismissal of the delinquency petition. In another delinquency case, the Iowa Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court’s order adjudicating the child to be a delinquent.

Federal Spending on Children: The third annual version of Kids’ Share: An Analysis of Federal Expenditures on Children Through 2008, examines federal spending trends and federal tax policies that support and impact children and families. Here are some of the findings of that report:

- Less than one-tenth of the federal budget ($295 billion out of a total of $2.983 trillion in outlays) was spent on children in 2008. In addition, since 1960, the children’s share of the federal budget has diminished by a quarter, while spending on the non-child portions of entitlement programs has more than doubled.
- The children’s share of the tax expenditure budget is less than 10 percent.
- As the children’s share of domestic federal spending has shrunk from 20 percent in 1960 to 15 percent in 2008, spending on the non-child portions
of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid has more than doubled, rising from 22 to 47 percent of domestic spending.

- Although spending on children is projected to increase in 2009, as a result of temporary increased spending on Medicaid, education, and other programs, other stimulus spending will increase even more, resulting in a decline in the percentage of federal outlays spent on children, from 9.9 percent in 2008 to 8.2 percent in 2009.

- As provisions of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act expire, it is projected that spending on children will shrink from 2.1 percent of GDP in 2008 to 1.9 percent of GDP by 2019, if current policies continue unchanged.

“Results! Why, man, I have gotten a lot of results. I know several thousand things that won't work.” – Thomas Edison