

Eric J. Holcomb, Governor Terry J. Stigdon, MSN, RN, Director

## **Indiana Department of Child Services**

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Child Support Hotline: 800-840-8757 Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556

Date: July 1, 2020

To: MaGIK Users

From: Terry J. Stigdon, Director

George Dremonas, General Counsel

Heather Kestian, Deputy Director of Strategic Solutions and Agency

Transformation

Sarah Sailors, Deputy Director of Field Operations

Heidi Monroe, Deputy Director of Permanency and Practice Support

Subject IV-E State Plan Amendment for Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) Moving to

the Office of Administrative Law Proceedings (OALP)

DCS-20-02

Effective on the date the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) move to the Office of Administrative Law Proceedings (OALP), DCS will send requests for an Administrative Appeal Hearing to the OALP. The OALP will assign an ALJ to preside over Administrative Appeal Hearings received from DCS for the following:

- Adoption Assistance
- Collaborative Care
- Foster Home License Denials and Revocations
- Guardian Assistance Program

Upon receipt of the OALP ALJ's Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, DCS will automatically conduct its Final Agency Authority review of the case. The DCS Final Agency Authority will review and consider the procedural history of the case, the exhibits and evidence in the case, the administrative appeal hearing record, and the OALP ALJ's Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. The DCS Final Agency Authority may also consider his or her own experience and training in the relevant subject matter.

The DCS Final Agency Authority may schedule status conferences or briefing deadlines during his or her review; however, failure to attend these status conferences or respond to briefing

deadlines will not result in a dismissal of the case or a failure of the Final Agency Authority to issue a decision in the case.

At the conclusion of the review, the Final Agency Authority will issue a decision upholding in whole or in part, reversing in whole or in part, or remanding the initial DCS decision which underlies the administrative appeal.

DCS will notify each party of the decision. If the appellant is dissatisfied with the results of the review, he or she may seek judicial review in accordance with IC 4-21.5-5.

Sincerely,

Terry J. Stigdon, MSN, RN, Director