

## MINUTES

Juvenile Benchbook Committee

January 30, 2026

via Microsoft Teams

1. **Attendees:** Michael Bohn, Justin Brown, Mark Cox, Matthew Effner, Anah Gouty (Chair), Elizabeth Klees, Bruce MacTavish, Tricia Thompson, and Mary Welker. Mindy Pickett, IOCS Staff attorney, served as staff for the meeting.
2. **Minutes:** The Committee approved the October 24, 2025, meeting minutes.
3. **Delinquency Modification Dialogue:** The committee reviewed the draft modification dialogue from the October 2025 meeting and made additions and changes. The committee agreed that a section on victims' rights should be added to the Delinquency Benchbook and initial hearing dialogue. Mag. Gouty volunteered to draft this for the next meeting. The committee moved and approved for publication the modification dialogue subject to final proofreading by committee staff.
4. **CHINS Initial/Detention and Dispositional dialogues:** Judge Brown reviewed the CHINS initial/detention and dispositional dialogues for revisions. The goal was to streamline the documents and use plain language that may be easier for case participants to understand. The committee reviewed the dialogues and made minor changes. The committee moved and approved for publication the CHINS initial/detention hearing dialogue and CHINS dispositional dialogue. Staff was authorized to submit a blurb to the weekly Wednesday message notifying judicial officers of all the updated dialogues.
5. **Other business:**
  - a. Recent Case Law : The committee reviewed Matter of M.L., 271 N.E.3d 190 (Ind. App. 2025) , Matter of T.F., No. 25A-JC-1450 (Ind. App. Dec. 4, 2025), Matter of G.V., No. 25A-JC-1223 (Ind. App. Jan. 7, 2026), In re A.R., 271 N.E.3d 1161 (Ind. App. 2025), In re Z.R., 272 N.E.3d 546 (Ind. App. 2025), Matter of A.W., No. 24A-JT-3052 (Ind. App. Dec. 8, 2025), and Matter of A.L., No. 25A-JT-663 (Ind. App. Dec. 12, 2025). The committee agreed to include Matter of G.V. in the CHINS benchbook and revise and update the section on findings. Mag. Thompson volunteered to do this for the next meeting.
  - b. Mindy provided some information on the 2026 Legislative Session and referred committee members to the list circulated prior to the meeting and provided a link to the Indiana Supreme Court Legislative blog.

**2026 MEETINGS:**      April 24 (Microsoft Teams)  
                                 June 26 (Microsoft Teams)  
                                 August 28 (Microsoft Teams)  
                                 October 23 (tentative in-person)

All meetings 10:00 am-noon (eastern).