

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).

MINUTES

Juvenile Benchbook Committee

April 24, 2026

via Microsoft Teams

1. **Attendees:** Michael Bohn, Justin Brown, Mark Cox, Matthew Effner, Anah Gouty (Chair), Bruce MacTavish, Erika Stallworth, Tricia Thompson, and Mary Welker. Mindy Pickett, IOCS Staff attorney, served as staff for the meeting.
2. **Minutes:** The Committee approved the January 30, 2026, meeting minutes.
3. **Revisions to Benchbooks:** The committee reviewed and approved the following changes to the benchbooks, dialogues, and forms related to S.E.A. 171 (2026) which was effective on passage, drafted by Mindy and Mag. Gouty:
 - a. CHINS Benchbook
 - b. CHINS Emergency Custody Order
 - c. CHINS Dialogue for Initial/Detention Hearing
 - d. CHINS Order on Initial/Detention Hearing
 - e. CHINS Dispositional Hearing Dialogue
 - f. CHINS Order Granting Modification
 - g. CHINS Order for Hearing on Motion to Modify including Temporary Emergency Order
 - h. TPR Benchbook
 - i. TPR Involuntary Due Process Checklist
 - j. TPR Order for Involuntary Termination

The committee also reviewed the CHINS Dispositional Order and made changes. Mindy will clean up the document and circulate via email for final approval, if there are no objections after one week it will be deemed approved. Also approved for inclusion in the CHINS benchbook were case summaries prepared by Mag. Thompson on Matter of P.F., 268 N.E.3d 777 (Ind. App. 2025) and Matter of G.V., 274 N.E.3d 996 (Ind. App. 2026).

The Delinquency benchbook and dialogue for initial hearing was revised by Mag. Gouty to include a section on victim's rights. The committee reviewed and approved the revisions.

4. **Assign 2026 Legislation for updates to benchbooks and forms:** There are additional bills related to juvenile matters that are effective July 1, 2026. Committee members agree and volunteered to review bills and draft revisions to the benchbooks, forms and dialogues for the next meeting in June as follows: Judge Welker will review H.E.A. 261, Mag. Stallworth will review H.E.A. 1035, Mag. Thompson will review H.E.A. 1036, Mag. Thompson and Mag. Gouty will both review H.E.A. 1249, Mag. Bohn and Judge MacTavish will review H.E.A. 1257, Judge Cox will review H.E.A. 1303 and Mindy will review and make edits pertaining to S.E.A. 80 on code publication and H.E.A. 1088 on technical corrections. The committee agreed not to include H.E.A. 1092 and H.E.A. 1389. Mag. Gouty will review S.E.A. 15 on Foster Youth to see if there is an appropriate location in any of the benchbooks to mention it.
5. **New Case Law:** The committee reviewed *In re Te.W.*, 276 N.E.3d 107 (Ind. App. 2026), *Matter of S.V.*, 276 N.E.3d 652 (Ind. App. 2026), *Matter of V.H.*, 276 N.E.3d 663 (Ind. App. 2026), *Matter of A.B.*, No. 25A-JC-1315 (Ind. App. Feb. 17, 2026), *Matter of A.M.*, No. 25A-JC-2407 (Ind. App. Feb. 23, 2026), *Matter of D.S.*, No. 25A-JC-1881 (Ind. App. Mar. 23, 2026) and *Matter of V.K.*, No. 25A-JC-2395 (Ind. App. Apr. 6, 2026). The committee agreed to include a reference to *Matter of V.H.* in the benchbook. Mag. Gouty and Mag. Stallworth volunteered to draft a short summary. A petition to transfer was filed on *Matter of D.S.*, the committee will revisit it once it is certified.

6. **TPR Initial Hearing dialogue:** Judge Cox drafted edits to the initial hearing for involuntary termination dialogue. The committee reviewed the edits and made additional changes. Mindy will reformat the document to mirror the formatting in the CHINS initial hearing dialogue and circulate the cleaned-up version for final approval via email.
7. **June 2026 Meeting Date:** The committee agreed to move the June 26 meeting date to June 12 at 10 a.m. Mindy will send out a revised calendar invite to everyone.

2026 MEETINGS: June 12 (Microsoft Teams)
 August 28 (Microsoft Teams)
 October 23 (tentative in-person)

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

MINUTES

Juvenile Benchbook Committee

June 12, 2026

via Microsoft Teams

1. **Attendees:** Michael Bohn, Mark Cox, Matthew Effner, Anah Gouty (chair), Amanda Guzmán, Erika Stallworth, Tricia Thompson and Mary Welker. The meeting was staffed by Mindy Pickett from IOCS.
2. **Minutes:** The Committee approved the April 24, 2026, meeting minutes.
3. **2026 Legislative Session:** The committee reviewed and approved the following revisions to the benchbooks and forms:
 - a. CHINS:
 - i. Benchbook updates including dialogues re: SEA 80 (Code Publication), SEA 1035 (Permissible Unsupervised Activity), HEA 1036 (Children in need of services), HEA 1088 (Technical Corrections), HEA 1249 (Various criminal law matters), HEA 1257 (Child services matters) drafted by Mag. Gouty, Mag. Thompson, Judge MacTavish, Mag. Bohn and Mindy Pickett.
 - ii. Forms
 1. Dispositional Order
 2. Order to Reconsider- Disposition
 3. Order on Fact-Finding hearing on CHINS Petition finding child is not a CHINS
 4. Order Approving Permanency Plan
 5. Order on Periodic Case Review
 6. Order on Initial/Detention Hearing
 7. Order Granting/Denying Initial Request for Extension of Reunification Services
 8. Order Granting/Denying Subsequent Request for Extension of Reunification Services
 9. CHINS initial/detention hearing dialogue
 10. CHINS Dispositional hearing dialogueThe committee voted not to publish a separate order on reunification services but opted to include language in existing orders and dialogues including tips and suggestions on how to keep track of timelines and service referrals.
 - b. TPR:
 - i. Benchbook updates re: HEA 80 (Code Publication)
 - c. Delinquency:
 - i. Benchbook updates re: SEA 80 (Code Publication) SEA 261 (Criminal vandalism), HEA 1249 (Various criminal law matters), HEA 1257 (Child services matters), HEA 1303 (Sex crimes and child safety) drafted by Judge Welker, Judge Cox, Judge MacTavish, Mag. Gouty, Mag. Thompson and Mindy Pickett.
 - ii. Forms:
 1. Waiver Order [I.C. 31-30-3-5]
4. **Other business:**
 - a. Case Law: The committee reviewed the following recent published cases: Matter of G.V. v. Indiana Dept. of Child Services, No. 25A-JC-1223, (Ind. App. Apr. 16, 2026), Matter of N.C. v. Indiana Dept. of Child Services, No. 25A-JC-2526, (Ind. App. May 12, 2026), Matter of A.L. v. Indiana Dept. of Child Services, No. 25A-JC-2535, (Ind. App. Apr. 27, 2026), and Matter of C.J.B., No. 25A-JT-3154, (Ind. App. May 11, 2026). The committee agreed to include *Matter of C.J.B.* once the opinion is certified in the CHINS benchbook regarding continuances.
 - b. The committee thanked Mag. Gouty (chair), Mag. Haughan, and Mag. Bohn for their service and contributions to the committee they rotate off the committee effective July 1.
 - c. The committee approved the following 2027 meeting dates: January 29, April 30, June 11, August 27, and October 29.

2026 MEETINGS:

August 28 (Microsoft Teams)
October 23 (tentative in-person)

2027 MEETINGS:

January 29 (Microsoft Teams)
April 30 (Microsoft Teams)
June 11 (Microsoft Teams)
August 27 (Microsoft Teams)
October 29 (tentative in-person)