



**RESOLUTION REGARDING
EFFORTS TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF EVIDENCE-BASED SERVICES TO MEET THE
NEEDS OF STATUS OFFENDERS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

WHEREAS, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (“NCJFCJ”) has adopted a resolution supporting the elimination of the Valid Court Order Exception (hereinafter referred to as the “VCO Exception”) as part of the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (hereinafter referred to as “JJDP A”); and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges (the “Georgia Council”) has adopted and forwarded to the President of NCJFCJ a resolution expressing concerns about the elimination of the VCO Exception and the lack of alternatives to detention, such as safe houses and therapeutic in-home placements, and calling on NCJFCJ to work to ensure that research-based services for status offenders are made available to all of the Courts in the country, and to support the judges’ associations and individual judges in advocating for said services in the individual states; and

WHEREAS, the concerns of the Georgia Council are shared by many members of NCJFCJ, by many other judges around the country, and by a wide range of stakeholders working with or within the juvenile justice systems at all levels around the country; and

WHEREBY, NCJFCJ is committed to promoting and facilitating the provision of evidence-based services to all of the Courts in the country as they strive to meet the needs of status offenders and their families; and

WHEREAS, NCJFCJ desires to make known its members commitment to fulfill the mandate of judges and stakeholders from around the country by taking a leadership role in identifying evidence-based services to meet the needs of this defined population and to advocate at all levels of government for the timely provision of those services throughout the country;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

NCJFCJ staff, working with the Juvenile and Family Law Department, Family Violence Department, and Permanency Planning for Children Department Advisory Committees, the National Center for Juvenile Justice Board of Fellows and other NCJFCJ committees as appropriate, shall identify evidence-based services from around the country that research suggests are effective in meeting the needs of status offenders and their families;

NCJFCJ shall identify ways to systematically share this information with judges and stakeholders around the country, and shall provide technical support when called on within funding capabilities;

NCJFCJ shall identify ways to advocate at all levels of government for the provision of services to meet the needs of status offenders and their families; and

NCJFCJ shall look for and take advantage of opportunities to collaborate with other organizations with the common purpose of serving this population.

Adopted by the NCJFCJ Board of Trustees, July 17, 2010, San Diego, CA; Adopted by the NCJFCJ Membership, July 20, 2010, San Diego, CA.