

NCJFCJ 71st ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JULY 27-30, 2008
Norfolk, VA

Resolution No. 10

**RESOLUTION REGARDING DISPROPORTIONATE
REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY CHILDREN**

WHEREAS, children of color, belonging to various cultural, ethnic, and racial communities are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system and frequently experience disparate outcomes in the legal and foster care systems; and

WHEREAS, the Disproportionate Representation of Minority Children in Out-of-Home Placements Committee and the Committee on Diversity of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) recognize and commit to reducing disproportionate representation and disparate outcomes with the support of the NCJFCJ and its Board of Trustees as evidenced in part by the previously adopted Membership Resolution and Policy Statements which support this important work; and

WHEREAS, judges – as the final arbiters of justice – must be leaders in their communities on the issue of disproportionality and disparity in the legal and foster care systems; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ, in partnership with Casey Family Programs through the Courts Catalyzing Change initiative has brought together judicial officers and other systems experts to set a national agenda for court-based training, research, and reform initiatives to reduce and eradicate the disproportionate representation and disparate outcomes for children of color in the legal and foster care systems.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to that end, the NCJFCJ encourages and supports its Permanency Planning for Children Department in its efforts to:

- 1) Create and disseminate judicial tools, policy and practice guidelines and associated action plans that dependency court systems can use to reduce disproportionality and disparities for minority children and families; and
- 2) Support and encourage Model Court Lead Judges to implement identified reforms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCJFCJ shall encourage its membership to:

- 1) Take the lead in participating in activities to achieve the mission of reducing the disproportionate representation and disparate outcomes for children; and
- 2) Commit to training and education for themselves and their colleagues; and
- 3) Raise awareness about disproportionality and disparate outcomes by communicating to their communities about the pervasiveness of the problem, as well as efforts and initiatives to reduce disproportionality and disparate outcomes.

Adopted this 29th day of July, 2008
By the Membership Assembled in Conference
In Norfolk, Virginia