



RESOLUTION REGARDING JUDICIAL EDUCATION ON MILITARY ISSUES

WHEREAS, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) acknowledges the unique nature of war-time military service provided by service members, both active duty and reservists, and the unique demands that military deployments, mobilizations, temporary military duty assignments, and other aspects of military service place upon those service members and their families impacted by military service; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ supports the White House January 14, 2011 *Strengthening our Military Families* report's request to "1. Enhance the well-being and psychological health of the military family... 1.6. By making our court systems more responsive to the unique needs of Veterans and families."; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ is committed to identifying and defining the issues affecting families impacted by military service in matters involving divorce, custody, visitation, child support, child safety and well-being, family and domestic violence, substance abuse, and juvenile and family law; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ has become aware that juvenile and family courts across the nation are encountering increasingly complex cases involving military service members, both deployed and upon returning from duty, and their families impacted by military service; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ aspires to equip juvenile and family court judges and allied system professionals with the most current information on dynamics within the modern military family, the systems within which they live and work, and the resources and protections available to families impacted by military service; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ seeks to provide educational opportunities and technical assistance resources of the highest quality to juvenile and family court judges and allied system professionals to support improved case processing, decision-making, and outcomes for military service members and their families impacted by military service; and

WHEREAS, the NCJFCJ Military Issues Committee has been tasked with facilitating the development and implementation of training and educational tools for judges, court personnel, and relevant civilian and military parties integral to improved case outcomes;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

NCJFCJ shall, within the limits of available funding, collaborate with allied organizations and experts, both inside and outside of the military, to develop curricula and technical assistance materials to increase the effectiveness of juvenile and family courts in cases involving military service members, returning veterans and their families impacted by military service; and

NCJFCJ shall make available such developed curricula and technical assistance materials to juvenile and family court professionals and allied system professionals at conferences and other educational events; and

NCJFCJ shall advocate at all levels for the commitment of financial resources to support the development and dissemination of curricula and technical assistance materials to improve practice in cases involving military service members, returning veterans, and their families impacted by military service; and

NCJFCJ shall encourage collaboration between civilian and military personnel to resolve case processing issues and to enhance delivery of services to military service members and their families impacted by military service; and

NCJFCJ shall promote the exercise of judicial leadership to convene local stakeholder and community groups to improve and enhance system responses to the needs of military service members and their families involved in civilian court proceedings.

Adopted by the NCJFCJ Board of Trustees, July 23, 2011, New York, New York.