
STATE OF COLORADO

Office of the Child's Representative

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Office of the Child's Representative Fact Sheet on SB10-43
Concerning the Repeal Date of the OCR

Sponsors: Sen. White and Rep. Pommer

- SB10-43 removes the repeal date for the OCR.
- The OCR was created by the state legislature in 2000, by HB00-1371, to improve representation for Colorado's children by providing competent and effective legal services. When the office was established, the enabling legislation was passed with a ten-year repeal date.
- The OCR is the state agency mandated to represent the best interest of all children in the Colorado court system. Ninety-six percent (96%) of the OCR's budget is directly spent on attorney services for children. The remaining 4% is used to administer the state agency, which consists of a staff of eight employees who oversee approximately 250 attorneys. The OCR represented approximately 22,320 children in the last year in dependency and neglect, delinquency, paternity, truancy and dissolution of marriage cases.
- The OCR is specifically mandated to oversee the practice of GALs to ensure compliance with applicable Chief Justice Directives, statutes and orders, to select and contract with GALs, establish training protocols for GALs, investigate and resolve complaints, and provide uniform representation for children throughout all 22 judicial districts, and support and work collaboratively with CASA programs.
- The OCR also manages the OCR El Paso County Guardian ad Litem office, which is a staff model office comprised of attorneys, social workers and support staff to provide attorney services in the 4th Judicial District.
- The Office of the State Auditor conducted a performance audit of the OCR and Guardian ad Litem services in 2007. No substantive findings were discovered as part of this audit. The auditors acknowledged that the OCR drastically improved the provision of GAL services in D&N cases. A copy of the audit report from is available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/OSA/coauditor1.nsf/ReportPublicDept?OpenForm> under the Judicial Branch.
- SB10-43 passed the Senate 34-1.

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