

Child in Need of Care Committee Report

The 1999 Legislature requested the Kansas Judicial Council to study and report on several child in need of care issues. The Judicial Council accepted the study and appointed an advisory committee of diverse and extensive experience in the area to make the study.

The advisory committee distilled the legislative request into the following four questions:

Why are children (under age 18) removed from their homes?

What are the standards and guidelines used to determine when a child is considered to be a child in need of care?

Why are more children being identified as children in need of care?

Are the reasons children are removed from the home understood by judges, SRS and parents? The Committee's report answers each of the questions. The Committee lists and discusses the reasons children (under age 18) are removed from their homes.

The Committee sets out in the report the statutes and rules and regulations that are used to determine when a child is considered to be a child in need of care and states that it does not find the statutes or rules and regulations vague.

The Committee agrees that recently more children are being identified as being children in need of care, the Committee lists possible reasons for the increase and affirms its confidence in the child in need of care system.

The Committee concludes that reasons children are removed from the home are well understood by judges and SRS. The report also concludes that not all parents fully understand the reasons children are removed from the home and makes several recommendations relating to providing information to parents.