

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services
Child Protection Legal Assistance
Budget Request Unit

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BRU Mission

The mission of the Division of Family and Youth Services is to protect children who are abused and neglected or at risk of abuse and neglect.

BRU Services Provided

The Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) is appointed by the court to act as an independent advocate for a child's best interests in a child protection proceeding. The GAL does not make decisions about a child's future, but makes recommendations to the court to enable the court to make the best possible decision. The GAL's recommendations are designed to ensure that the child is protected, that appropriate services are provided to the child and the family, and that a permanent plan is implemented for the child in a timely manner.

The GAL is responsible to independently gather information about a case, monitor and facilitate progress of the case through the system, insure all relevant information is available to the court, and seek cooperative solutions to the child's situation within the scope of the child's welfare.

The Public Defender Agency (PDA) provides attorney resources to concentrate on new child in need of aid cases (CINA) and to free up Senior Attorneys for termination trials.

BRU Goals and Strategies

- 1) TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADOPTED OR PLACED IN PERMANENT HOMES.
 - Provide attorney resources to concentrate on new child in need of aid (CINA) cases
 - Provide Senior Attorneys for termination of parental rights trials
 - Provide Guardian Ad Litem for new cases

Key BRU Issues for FY2001 – 2002

Federal and State law, including Alaska's HB 375 (Chapter 99, SLA98) mandate shortened time frames for children to be placed into permanent placements. The changes were to encourage and enable the State to emphasize permanency planning and to place children who are in State custody into stable, safe, supportive, and permanent homes without unnecessary delay.

The Child Protection Legal Assistance BRU, created within DFYS in FY1999, strengthens the State's ability to process Child in Need of Aid (CINA) cases through the legal system to increase the number of children legally eligible to be adopted. This new BRU provides funding for RSA's with the Public Defender Agency and the Office of Public Advocacy for processing Child in Need of Aid cases. The Public Defender Agency provides attorney resources to concentrate on CINA cases and the Office of Public Advocacy provides Guardian Ad Litem for these new cases.

DFYS maintains RSA's with the Department of Law and the Court System to address the problem of backlogged adoption court cases. The Division anticipates that the services provided by these agencies will continue to be a significant factor in Subsidized Adoption and Guardianship caseload growth into FY2002.

Major BRU Accomplishments for FY2000

CHILDREN RELEASED FROM DFYS CUSTODY TO PERMANENT PLACEMENTS

A) FY1998 105 children were released to the custodianship of permanent placements

- B) FY1999 112 children were released to the custodianship of permanent placements
- C) FY2000 180 children were released to the custodianship of permanent placements

CHILDREN WHO HAD PARENTAL RIGHTS TERMINATED

- A) FY1998 48 children had parental rights terminated
- B) FY1999 145 children had parental rights terminated
- C) FY2000 351 children had parental rights terminated

Key Performance Measures for FY2002

Measure: This BRU is for pass through funds and the performance measures for the Division of Family and Youth Services are set up under the Purchased Services and the Front Line Social Workers BRU's.
(Not yet addressed by Legislature.)

Status of FY2001 Performance Measures

	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>On track</i>	<i>Too soon to tell</i>	<i>Not likely to achieve</i>	<i>Needs modification</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This BRU is for pass through funds and the performance measures for the Division of Family and Youth Services are set up under the Purchased Services and the Front Line Social Workers BRU's. 		X			

**Child Protection Legal Assistance
BRU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals				FY2001 Authorized				FY2002 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures Office of Public Advocacy	185.0	0.0	0.0	185.0	185.0	0.0	0.0	185.0	185.0	0.0	0.0	185.0
Public Defender Agency	255.0	0.0	0.0	255.0	255.0	0.0	0.0	255.0	255.0	0.0	0.0	255.0
Totals	440.0	0.0	0.0	440.0	440.0	0.0	0.0	440.0	440.0	0.0	0.0	440.0

Child Protection Legal Assistance
Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

None

Child Protection Legal Assistance
Summary of BRU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	440.0	0.0	0.0	440.0
FY2002 Governor	440.0	0.0	0.0	440.0