# 2022 CHILD WELFARE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

What You Need to Know

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 12 - 1 PM** 



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The 2022 Legislative Session saw significant changes to the Louisiana Children's Code Title VI Child in Need of Care (CINC). Act 272 became effective on August 1st and incorporates updated safety language into the Code, clarifies and enhances reasonable efforts provisions, requires a Continued Safety Plan Hearing if an Instanter Safety Plan Order is issued, presumes parent indigence for purposes of appointment of counsel for the Continued Custody and Continued Safety Plan Hearings, and more. These new Code provisions affect all CINC cases. Changes to other Louisiana laws that may affect vulnerable children and families will also be highlighted. We invite you to come learn more from our knowledgeable presenters.









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#### **Objectives**

- Understand that there have been significant amendments to the Louisiana Children's Code that impact all Child in Need of Care cases;
- Gain familiarity with the specific legislative changes related to Child in Need of Care cases, including safety, reasonable efforts, presumption of indigence, and Continued Safety Plan Hearing Provisions; and
- Be able to access changes to relevant laws for future reference.

#### **AGENDA & SCHEDULE**

12:00 – 12:05pm Welcome and Introduction

12:05 – 12:40pm Act 272

12:40 – 12:50pm Other Legislative Updates

12:50 – 1:00pm Questions and Answers and Closing



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### **SPEAKERS**



Kathy Lynn Cook, J.D., M.A., C.W.L.S.\* | Deputy General Counsel, Mental Health Advocacy Service/Child Advocacy Program

Kathy has been a specialized mental health attorney for juveniles and adults for almost 27 years, spending the last 17 years as a CINC attorney for children. Her agency responsibilities include legislation monitoring and drafting; training and data management; and working on child welfare policy and attorney quality indicators development at both the state and national level. Kathy is NACC certified as a Child Welfare Law Specialist. She shares her home with two dogs - Bunnie and Munchkin, two cats - Rain and Snuffles, and three oppossums - Opie and the two babies. In her spare time...never mind.



Richard M. Pittman, J.D., C.W.L.S.\* | Deputy Public Defender, Director of Juvenile Defender Services, Louisiana Public Defender Board

Richard M. Pittman is a certified Child Welfare Law Specialist and has been involved in child welfare law and policy since 2006. He is currently in administration in public defense for Louisiana with responsibilities over parent representation as the Deputy Public Defender – Director of Juvenile Defender Services for the Louisiana Public Defender Board. He is a member of the Children's Code Committee of the Louisiana Law Institute, the Pelican Center Training and Education Committee, the CARE Committee, and the Steering Committee of the ABA Parent Representation Project.

\*Child Welfare Law Specialist, Certified by the National Association of Counsel for Children

