

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

Administrative Order No. 114

Re: Access of Employees of the National Center for State Courts to Files of  
Child in Need of Care Proceedings

Pursuant to K.S.A. 38-1506(a)(4) & (b), the Supreme Court hereby authorizes employees of the National Center for State Courts, the Court Improvement Project authorized contractor, to examine files described in K.S.A. 38-1506(a) & (b) to determine whether applicable state and federal laws, policies, deadlines, and procedures under the Kansas Code for Care of Children, 38-1501 et seq., and in K.S.A. 38-134, Foster Children Information, which pertain to Child in Need of Care proceedings, are being satisfied by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and the courts. This file review is a critical piece of the Court Improvement Project being conducted by the Supreme Court of Kansas, therefore, this order shall remain in full force and effect from the date this order is signed through December 28, 1996.

The authority granted by this order is limited to the Court of Appeals and to specific cases. The sample of files will be all the Child in Need of Care cases in which parental rights were terminated and appealed, filed during FY 93, FY 94, and FY 95. Court employees are directed to cooperate with the auditors, and may remain with them during the audit to answer questions and provide documentation.

No documents or parts of documents in the files examined shall be copied or removed from the court by the contractor, and no person performing the file review may, directly or indirectly, disclose the names or identities of any parties to the proceedings documented by the files. K.S.A. 38-1506 prohibits disclosure of these files to unauthorized persons and thus declares them confidential.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT this 30th day of October 1996.

  
Kay McFarland  
Chief Justice