

Resolution 21
Statement of Principles Regarding Children and Families

WHEREAS, the Conference of Chief Justices recognizes the importance of litigation involving children and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conference adopts the following Statement of Principles:

- Children and families increasingly are the subject of state court litigation presenting issues critical to their lives and well-being, and thus they are a particular concern and high priority for each of us.
- We recognize that our personal commitment and leadership are necessary to assure that child-related matters are resolved expeditiously and effectively.
- In that family matters have, in times past, not always been accorded a high priority, we will seek to assure those courts and judges the facilities, resources and stature among their colleagues that they need and deserve to have.
- We encourage, as appropriate, each of our members to visit their facilities conducting family court matters.
- While protracted court proceedings are generally undesirable, they are especially damaging in children's lives, and we will work to expedite trial and appellate matters involving children.
- We will, by speeches, programs and other activities, continue to focus attention both on the development of law related to children and on how the law can better protect the interests of children and promote the well-being of their families.

Adopted as proposed by the Courts, Children and Family Committee of the Conference of Chief Justices in Baltimore, Maryland at the 24th Midyear Meeting on January 25, 2001.