

**Judicial Decision-Making and Hearing Quality in Child Welfare Research Study:  
Follow-Up Telephone Interview with CIP Administrators  
Consent to Participate**

**TITLE:** Descriptive Study of Child Welfare Courts - Understanding Judicial Decision-Making and Hearing Quality in Child Welfare

**PROTOCOL NO.:** None  
IRB Protocol #20203598

**SPONSOR:** Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation ACF DHHS

**INVESTIGATOR:** Alicia Summers, PhD, MS  
682 Talus Way  
Reno, Nevada 89503  
United States

**STUDY-RELATED**

**PHONE NUMBER(S):** Alicia Summers, Ph.D.  
(775) 686-8545

Sophia Gatowski, Ph.D.  
(604) 807-4617

Anne Fromknecht, M.P.H.  
(703) 247-2631

You are invited to participate in a telephone interview about your responses on the survey you recently completed and/or the information you provided in the CIP self-assessment report submitted to the Children's Bureau. The interview will focus on your survey responses and on your CIP projects on hearing quality and how judges make decisions. The information collected in this interview will help us plan for a future study or studies that will examine the factors associated with judicial decision-making and hearing quality in child welfare cases, and the influence those factors may have on judges' reasonable efforts decisions and case outcomes. The research study is funded by the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) and the Children's Bureau and is being conducted by James Bell Associates, the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, and Co-Principal Investigators Drs. Alicia Summers and Sophie Gatowski.

This collection of information is voluntary and will be used to help us understand which sites may be appropriate for a future research study or studies that will examine hearing quality and judicial decision-making in child abuse and neglect cases. Public reporting

burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per interview, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing the interview. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB number and expiration date for this collection are OMB #: 0970-0356, Exp: 06/30/2021. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Anne Fromknecht; fromknecht@jbassoc.com.

You may refuse to take part in this research or end the interview at any time without penalty or loss of otherwise entitled benefits. You are free to decline to answer any particular question for any reason. There are no foreseeable risks involved to your participation in the interview. Your alternative is to not participate. Although you may receive no direct benefit from participating in this research study; you will be contributing to the broad body of knowledge regarding what works to improve child welfare court practice. Your responses will help us learn more about child welfare practices in your state and understand which potential sites are appropriate for participating in future research about how hearing quality factors affect judicial decisions and outcomes in child welfare cases. Your name or any other personally identifying information will not appear in any report of the information provided in the interview so your responses to this interview will remain private to the extent permitted by law. However, people overseeing the study such as the IRB may review records. Also, the name of your state may be associated with responses you provide and included in a report prepared for OPRE and the Administration for Children and Families.

A member of our study team will join the interview to take notes. We would like to record our discussion so we can refer to it when writing up our notes. No one besides our research team will listen to the recording. If you want to say anything that you do not want recorded, please let us know and we will be glad to pause the recording. Interview recordings will be transcribed and entered into a qualitative data analysis program (Dedoose) for review. We will destroy the recording once project reports are released. Your answers will be stored in a password protected electronic database and will only be accessible to the research team. The information you provide during this interview will be used to help the researchers understand child welfare court practice to inform a study of hearing quality and judicial decision-making and may be shared within OPRE and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). ACF will use the data to inform future research and planning. Information from this study may be securely shared with qualified researchers to help guide future research and support program improvement.

If you have questions or any concerns, or complaints about the interview or study, or to report a research-related problem, you may contact Co-Principal Investigators Dr. Alicia Summers and Dr. Sophia Gatowski or Project Director Anne Fromknecht.

**Co-Principal Investigator**

Alicia Summers, Ph.D.  
Data Savvy Consulting  
682 Talus Way, Reno, NV 89503  
(775) 686-8545

**Co-Principal Investigator**

Sophia Gatowski, Ph.D.  
Systems Change Solutions Inc.  
2-6988 177 Street, Surrey, BC., Canada, V3S 2K1  
(604) 807-4617

**Project Director**

Anne Fromknecht, M.P.H.  
James Bell Associates  
3033 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 650  
Arlington, VA 22201  
(703) 247-2631  
fromknecht@jbassoc.com

This research is being overseen by WCG IRB. An IRB is a group of people who perform independent review of research studies. You may talk to them at 855-818-2289 or [researchquestions@wcgirb.com](mailto:researchquestions@wcgirb.com) if:

- You have questions, concerns, or complaints that are not being answered by the research team.
- You are not getting answers from the research team.
- You cannot reach the research team.
- You want to talk to someone else about the research.
- You have questions about your rights as a research subject.

The Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This collection of information is voluntary and will be used to help us understand which sites would be appropriate for a future study or studies that will examine hearing quality and judicial decision-making in child abuse and neglect cases. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The OMB number and expiration date for this collection are OMB #: 0970-0356, Exp: 06/30/2021. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Anne Fromknecht; fromknecht@jbassoc.com