

JUVENILE LAW

APPEARANCE BY ATTORNEY IN JUVENILE COURT PROCEEDINGS 2015 OREGON LAWS CH. 776 (SB 222)

Senate Bill 222 extends the sunset date established in HB 4156 (2014) of the provision authorizing DHS to appear as a party in juvenile court proceedings without appearing through an attorney. Under ORS 9.320, the State of Oregon must appear by attorney in all court cases; in this case, through the Attorney General. As a practical matter, this has not always happened, and DHS caseworkers have frequently appeared in dependency cases without counsel.

Under SB 222, the temporary authorization for DHS to appear without counsel will continue until June 30, 2018, after which DHS will have to have Attorney General representation in all proceedings.

Effective date: July 27, 2015.

APPOINTMENT OF COURT VISITORS FOR MINOR RESPONDENTS IN GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDINGS

ORS 125.055, 125.150 2015 OREGON LAWS CH. 176 (SB 590)

Senate Bill 590 amends ORS 125.055 and 125.150 and directs the court to appoint a court visitor for a minor respondent in a guardianship proceeding where the minor is more than 16 years old and the court determines there is the likelihood that the petition seeking guardianship for the respondent as an adult will be filed before the respondent attains the age of majority or as an adult.

Effective date: January 1, 2016.

GRANDPARENT RIGHTS **ORS 419B.875, 419B.876** 2015 OREGON LAWS CH. 216 (HB 3014)

House Bill 3014 amends ORS 419B.875 and 419B.876 to expand the definition of the term “grandparent,” for purposes of juvenile dependency and termination of parental rights proceeding, to “legal parent of the child’s or ward’s legal parent,” regardless of whether the parental rights of the child’s or ward’s legal parent have been terminated under ORS 419B.500 to 419B.524.

Effective date: January 1, 2016. This amendment applies to juvenile dependency proceedings pending or commenced on or after the effective date.

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