

The Supreme Court of Ohio

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THOMAS J. MOYER

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Dear Ohio Juvenile and Family Court Judges and Magistrates and Appellate Judges,

I am pleased to provide you with Ohio's **Dependency Docket Bench Cards**, a new resource for those of you who are charged with the responsibility of overseeing the cases of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens. It is fitting that we send these cards to you on Law Day, a day designed to celebrate the role of law in our society and the rights and duties which are the foundation of our work. On Law Day 2004, as we began the *Beyond the Numbers* initiative, I spoke with many of you about your role in addressing safety, permanency and well-being for children who are the subject of dependency cases. Improvements in the management of these cases since the inception of the *Beyond the Numbers* initiative is a testament to your leadership and your willingness to listen to the concerns and needs of others within your communities.

Ohio's **Dependency Docket Bench Cards** were developed to encourage consistent and sound practices that support both comprehensive and timely judicial action. This Ohio-specific resource is designed to be used in conjunction with the RESOURCE GUIDELINES and the ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY GUIDELINES published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. These bench cards are not intended to serve as an authoritative legal source, but rather, a resource to inform courtroom practice.

I extend special recognition and gratitude to Judy Fornof, Carla A. Guenther, and Victor H. Perez, who contributed countless hours and dedicated their collective effort, experience, and expertise to drafting these cards. The Supreme Court of Ohio also thanks and recognizes the contributions of many Ohio judges and magistrates and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Comments or questions about the *Beyond the Numbers* initiative or these bench cards should be directed to Jessica Shimberg Lind, Family Law Program Manager in the Judicial and Court Services Division of the Supreme Court of Ohio, 65 South Front Street, 6th Floor, Columbus, Ohio, 43215, 614.387.9453. An electronic version of the Dependency Docket Bench Cards will soon be available on our website at www.sconet.state.oh.us.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Moyer