

## **Juvenile Judicial Allocation, Stable Assignment, Rotation, and Tenure Best Practices Recommendations**

1. Juvenile courts should adopt a one-family-one-judge model, where all juvenile dependency, juvenile delinquency, domestic relations, and Federal Abuse Prevention Act (FAPA) restraining order cases concerning a family are heard by the same judge or referee.
2. Courts that rotate judges on and off their juvenile bench should ensure that assignments to juvenile court last a minimum of three years.
3. To ensure continuity on the juvenile court bench, courts that rotate judges and have multiple judges hearing dependency cases at a given time should stagger their rotations so that all juvenile judges are not rotated off the juvenile bench at once.
4. Courts should ensure that judges who are new to juvenile work attend available trainings on dependency work, including JCIP's Through the Eyes of the Child Conference, JCIP's biannual Mini Child Abuse and Neglect Institute (Mini-CANI), and, if funding is available, the National Center for Juvenile and Family Court Judges Child Abuse and Neglect Institute (CANI).
5. In assigning judges to hear juvenile cases, courts should, to the extent possible, assign judges who have an interest in hearing juvenile cases and experience or training in juvenile law.
6. Courts should consider having probation matters involving families in the dependency court system assigned to that family's judge. Where uniform assignment is not practical due to local circumstances, courts should look for opportunities to ensure requirements in probation judgments are not administered inconsistently with juvenile court directives.