

**STATE OF TEXAS**

**RESOLUTION**

**of the**

**TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

**Civil Justice Committee Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission  
Recommendations**

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council is the policymaking body for the Texas Judicial Branch, created under Chapter 71, Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Council is charged with improving the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Texas Children's Commission is a statewide, multi-disciplinary, collaborative body that includes high-level membership from the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of Texas government, along with child welfare stakeholders in the public and private sectors; and


WHEREAS, the Supreme Court established the Children's Commission in 2007 with the overall goal of strengthening the child welfare system by increasing public awareness about the challenges facing children, youth, and families through encouraging judicial leadership, supporting best judicial and legal practices through training and education, and informing policy and practice affecting child welfare in Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Commission is a leading collaborative partner in most every aspect of child welfare system improvement in Texas and is recognized nationally as a leader in establishing long-standing and meaningful relationships with child welfare stakeholders to create a child welfare system that better supports and serves children, youth, and families; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council urges the Legislature to enact the recommendations from the Texas Supreme Court Children's Commission Legislation and Policy Resource Committee concerning the following:

1. Clarify that the required finding for termination of parental rights that requires a description in writing of the reasonable efforts to return the child to the parent is to be made by a judge, not a jury; and

2. Add authorization to conduct hearings remotely to Child Protection Court judges;  
and
3. Clarify that the triggering date to terminate parental rights under ground (M) is the date DFPS was granted Permanent Managing Conservatorship (PMC) not Temporary Managing Conservatorship (TMC); and
4. In a court ordered services case, require the calculation for the dismissal date to begin the date the order is rendered rather than the date the order is signed; and
5. Reconciling the conflicting directives at permanency hearings before a final order;  
and
6. Clarify that reinstatement of parental rights is not limited to cases where termination of parental rights is involuntary; and
7. Allow all parties to request extensions in Court Ordered Services cases.



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Honorable Nathan L. Hecht  
Chair, Texas Judicial Council