

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 10-04**

**Timeline for Resolution of Motions to Review Magistrate Judges' Decisions in
Neglect, Guardianship, Adoption and Termination of Parental Rights Matters**

WHEREAS, pursuant to D.C Code § 11-906(a), the Chief Judge shall administer and superintend the business of the Superior Court; and

WHEREAS, Superior Court General Family Rule D provides for associate judge review of final decisions issued by magistrate judges upon written motion of any party prior to the filing of a notice of appeal with the District of Columbia Court of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, timely resolution of Motions for Review of magistrate judges' final decisions in neglect, guardianship, adoption and termination of parental rights matters is crucial to the permanency, safety and well-being of children, and the protection of the due process interests of parents and caretakers; and

WHEREAS, the Mission of the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia is "to protect and support children brought before it, strengthen families in trouble, provide permanency for children, and decide disputes involving families fairly and expeditiously while treating all parties with dignity and respect," *see* Family Court Transition Plan; and

WHEREAS, an ad hoc committee was convened to recommend a timeline for resolution of Motions for Review, following consideration of national best practice standards, initiatives and statutory time frames in other jurisdictions, data reflecting current Family Court practices, comments submitted to the Family Court Rules Advisory Committee, and relevant rules of the Superior Court; and

WHEREAS, the committee's recommendations balanced the priority needs of children, the significant legal rights of parents and caretaker, and the reasonable ability of associate judges to render thorough and correct rulings in light of their other responsibilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is by the Court,

ORDERED, that the timeline set forth below be adhered to in neglect, guardianship, adoption and termination of parental rights cases in which a Motion to Review the decision of a Magistrate Judge has been filed on or after March 15, 2010:

**Timeline for Resolution of Motions for Review of
Magistrate Judge Decisions**

Day 1: Motion for Review filed with the Family Court Central Intake Center.

Judges

Senior Judges

Magistrate Judges

Executive Officer

Clerk of the Court

Division Directors

**Director, Office of Strategic
Management**

Library

Daily Washington Law

DC Bar Webmaster