

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH & GENERAL COUNSEL



MICHAEL E. CHRISTENSEN
Director

M. GAY TAYLOR
General Counsel

Utah State Capitol Complex
House Building, Suite W210

PO Box 145210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5210

(801) 538-1032 • fax 538-1712
<http://le.utah.gov>

May 18, 2005

Senator Dan R. Eastman
Representative Steven R. Mascaro
Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Subject: Interim Study Topics

Dear Chairs and Panel Members:

We have reviewed the 2005 Master Study Resolution and identified three items which address child welfare issues. We believe the most appropriate way to handle these items is to refer them to you for your consideration and then review any recommendations you may have when the Oversight Panel reports to the Health and Human Services Interim Committee later this year. The three items include:

CHILD WELFARE

- 75. **Child Welfare Code**—to study evidentiary standards and whether they should be changed, and review words that are used in the code that are undefined, such as "accidental," "nonaccidental," "threatened," "harm," and "emotional harm," to determine whether they should be defined.
- 109. **Guardian Ad Litem Audit**—to study the results of the 2004-05 guardian ad litem audit, and potential revisions to the statute based on the results of the audit.
- 223. **Guardian Ad Litem Operations**—to study the full operations of the Guardian Ad Litem's Office and potential statutory changes.

Sincerely,

Senator Allen M. Christensen, Senate Chair
Health and Human Services Interim Committee

Representative Bradley G. Last, House Chair
Health and Human Services Interim Committee