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| **DIDS Attorney Observation Report** | | **Reviewer** | Derrick Lopez |
| Date | March 4, 2025 | County | Douglas |
| Court | Ninth Judicial District Court Dept I | Judge | Nathan Tod Young |
| Defense Attorney | Mary Brown | Prosecutor(s) | Zach Wadle  Deputy District Attorney |
| Attorney Present | In Person / Virtual / w/Client | Number of Clients | 1 |
| Juveniles Present | In Person / Virtual / Off-Site | Custodial Status | IC / OOC / Blend |
| Number of Clients  In custody | 1 | Number of Clients Out-of-Custody | 0 |
| Cases Continued  In Custody | 0 | Cases Continued  Out-of-Custody | 0 |
| Hearing Types | Petition Hearing | | |
| **Attorney's Preparedness** | | | |
| Did the Attorney appear for court? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the Attorney have the file? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the Attorney appear to have had a substantive, confidential meeting with  each client before court? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the Attorney appear prepared to handle their clients' cases? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| **How prepared did the Attorney appear?**  Mary appeared prepared for court, except that she had not brought a copy of the Petition Alleging Delinquency to court with her. | | | |
| **How knowledgeable was the Attorney about their cases?**  Mary appeared to be knowledgeable about her case. | | | |
| **The Attorney's courtroom advocacy skills were:**  Good. | | | |
| **How was the Attorney/client communication?**  The attorney-client communication appeared to be good. | | | |
| **Case Stage-Specific Issues** | | | |
| Did the Attorney argue for release from detention? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the Attorney counsel each client to refrain from waiving trial rights until the  attorney completed investigation of the case? | | | Yes / No / Unknown |
| Did the Attorney appear to have counseled clients to refrain from waiving any  rights at the Petition Hearing? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the Attorney appear to adequately advise clients of the Consequences of  accepting a plea or going to trial, including any collateral consequences? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the Attorney present mitigating evidence and provide argument at  the Disposition Hearing? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the Attorney address the Juvenile Probation Office Disposition Report and/or  Psychosexual Evaluation/Risk Assessment appropriately? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the court require juvenile(s) to reimburse the entity for representation? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| **Overall Assessments** | | | |
| Does the Attorney appear to have a sustainable workload? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Overall, does the Attorney appear to be providing effective representation to  their clients? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| **Remarks/Recommendations/Notes:**  Mary had one juvenile on the law and motion calendar today.  [*Note: Normally, juveniles held in detention are brought from the Detention Center (located at the county Lake Tahoe Judicial and Law Enforcement building) to the District Court (located at the Judicial and Law Enforcement building in Minden) for court hearings. However, due to inclement weather, the decision was made to have the juvenile appear by Zoom video from the Lake Tahoe detention facility.*]  Mary did not have a copy of the Petition with her in court. The court had the court clerk print a copy and provide it to Mary. Mary informed the court that she went over the allegations in the Petition with the Juvenile prior to the court hearing (by phone). The juvenile informed the court that he did not have a copy of the Petition in front of him either. The juvenile told the court that he had receive a copy of the Petition, had reviewed it, and had discuss it with Mary prior to the court hearing.  The juvenile admitted violating his probation by consuming marijuana. Following the court canvass, the court accepted the juvenile’s admission. The court confirmed the parties were prepared to proceed directly to disposition.  [*Note: the court prior to this violation of probation had ordered that client be placed at the China Spring Youth Camp. There was no immediate bed date available at the China Spring Youth Camp for the Juvenile. So, at that previous hearing, the court released the client from detention and told the client that his release from detention while waiting for a bed date at the youth camp is an opportunity to prove that he can succeed on probation without being sent to the youth camp. In essence, this was an opportunity to earn his way out of the placement. Unfortunately, while waiting on a bed date, the juvenile used marijuana, tested positive for marijuana, was returned to detention, and charged with the instant probation violation.]*  Disposition Arguments:   * Mary argued for a suspended commitment or one more chance on probation prior to being placed at the China Spring Youth Camp. * The State argued for the juvenile to be placed at the China Spring Youth Camp and to remain in detention until placement. * The juvenile’s mother, who was present in court, asked the court to give her son one more chance to come home and earn his way out of the placement. * The juvenile client spoke on his own behalf: he said that he was sorry he took his “last chance” for granted. He realizes now that he has taken risks that affect his life, his family, and his freedom. He feels like he threw it away. He asked for one additional chance on probation before being sent to the youth camp.   Disposition Order: Client is placed at the CSYC at next available bed date. Client will remain in detention until that placement.  Mary asked the court to order the China Spring Youth Camp to allow the client to keep his hair uncut as he plans to donate it to cancer patients. The court told Mary that he would not interfere with the youth camp’s decision on the issue, but she is certainly welcome to ask CSYC to make an exception.  Additional Notes:   1. The China Spring Youth Camp has a policy to cut the male participants’ hair short when they first arrive at the camp. 2. After the court hearing, I learned from Mary and Juvenile Probation Officer Dan Hamer that:  * there is a bed date for the juvenile at the China Spring Youth Camp available tomorrow (3/4/2025); and, * the China Spring Youth Camp is aware of the client’s plan to donate his hair and is willing to allow him to keep it long, provided he abides by the Camp’s rules regarding how he must keep it. | | | |