



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

SHR:SRJ:JC:ECK:ks
DJ 207-43-6

*Special Litigation Section – 4CON
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington DC 20530*

December 16, 2019

Via Electronic and Regular Mail

The Honorable Margaret T. Donnelly
Family Court of St. Louis County
105 South Central Avenue
Clayton, MO 63105

Mr. John Sauer
Missouri Attorney General's Office
207 W. High St.
P.O. Box 899
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Re: Memorandum of Agreement between the United States Department of Justice and the St. Louis County Family Court

Dear Judge Donnelly and Mr. Sauer:

We write regarding the Department of Justice's investigation of the St. Louis County Family Court pursuant to the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, 34 U.S.C. § 12601.

In July 2015, the Department issued a report of our investigation of the Family Court, which concluded that there was reasonable cause to believe that Family Court failed to provide children appearing before it on juvenile justice matters constitutionally-required due process and failed to administer juvenile justice in a non-discriminatory manner. In December 2016, the Department and the Family Court entered into a Memorandum of Agreement that required the Family Court to implement reforms to address the issues set forth in our investigation report.

Since the Agreement was signed, the Independent Auditor conducted four monitoring reviews, and the Disproportionate Minority Contact ("DMC") Subject Matter Expert conducted five reviews. After carefully reviewing the reports of the Independent Auditor and DMC Subject Matter Expert, and based on our own fact-finding regarding the Family Court's effort to achieve and sustain substantial compliance with each provision of the Agreement, we write to advise you that the Department has decided that the Agreement should be terminated and our investigation closed.

We recognize the hard work that the Family Court has put into protecting the due process and equal protection rights of youth in juvenile justice proceedings through changed policies and practices. In particular, we want to acknowledge the leadership of Court Administrator Ben

Burkemper in pushing forward the reforms that enabled to Court to achieve and maintain substantial compliance with the Agreement.

We congratulate the Family Court for fully implementing the reforms in the Agreement, and look forward to hearing of your sustained and continuing dedication to protecting the constitutional rights of youth in the Family Court.

Sincerely,

Steven H. Rosenbaum
Chief
Special Litigation Section

cc: Ben Burkemper