

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 15, 2010**

Contacts: LuWanna Lawrence, Assistant Public Information Officer, 701-328-1892 or Heather Steffl, Public Information Officer, 701-328-4933

Children's Justice Symposium to be held in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Children and Family Services Division of the N.D. Department of Human Services and the North Dakota Supreme Court are co-sponsoring the **Children's Justice Symposium** July 27–29 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. A pre-conference workshop will focus on managing treatment and service planning teams on June 26.

The Children's Justice Symposium is designed to provide multi-disciplinary training, knowledge, and skill development in the areas of child safety, permanency, and well-being. Law enforcement professionals, attorneys, social workers, judges, educators, therapists or others who work with children and families are encouraged to attend.

“This conference presents an opportunity to gather a diverse mix of professionals together to learn how to effectively work together to achieve positive outcomes for children and families,” said Tara Muhlhauser, director of the Children and Family Services Division.

The symposium will have numerous workshops featuring national and in-state experts on topics including decision-making in child welfare, preparing and delivering credible evidence for testimony, termination of parental rights, forensic interviewing strategies for pre-school children, working with individuals living in poverty, and more.

The four-day event is free and open to the public, but registration is required to attend. People can register on-line and obtain an agenda along with other information at <http://www.cfstc.und.edu/10ndsymposium.php>. About 470 people have already registered for the event.

The Children's Justice Symposium is held every other year in North Dakota and is organized by the North Dakota Supreme Court and the Department of Human Services. In 2008, the inaugural year of the conference, nearly 420 professionals from various organizations participated in the event.

#