

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

On June 26, 2026, the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia made and entered the following order:

**RE: REFUSAL TO ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THE WEST VIRGINIA
RULES OF JUVENILE PROCEDURE, No. 25-741**

On November 3, 2025, Matthew K. Freeman, Assistant Public Defender for the 27th Judicial Circuit, filed a request to amend the West Virginia Rules of Juvenile Procedure. On January 8, 2026, Mr. Freeman submitted an updated request as a strike-and-insert version of his proposed amendments. The proposed amendments would provide for an automatic appointment of a guardian ad litem in certain juvenile delinquency and status offense proceedings and add a restriction on the circumstances under which a juvenile charged with a municipal offense would be appointed counsel. The Court has jurisdiction to consider the proposed amendments under Article VIII, §§ 1 and 3 of the West Virginia Constitution.

Upon consideration and review, the Court refuses to adopt the proposed amendments to the West Virginia Rules of Juvenile Procedure.

A True Copy

Attest: /s/ C. Casey Forbes
Clerk of Court

