

The Attorneys for Children Program

The Attorneys for Children Program is an auxiliary agency of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department. The Attorneys for Children Program currently is comprised of more than 850 attorneys, who dedicate a portion of their practice to taking cases on behalf of the children of Western and Central New York. These special individuals become involved in some of the most difficult family circumstances in an effort to advance the interests of the children before the Court.

The difficult cases to which attorneys for children are assigned by the courts include: termination of parental rights based upon physical or sexual abuse, neglect or abandonment; contested adoptions; troubled children who have been identified as persons in need of supervision (PINS); children who have been charged with juvenile delinquency; and children who are the subject of emotional and complicated custody disputes.

Because of the difficult nature of this work, these attorneys deserve special attention and appreciation. Accordingly, the Departmental Advisory Committee to the Attorneys for Children Program annually selects two attorneys from each of the Fifth, Seventh and Eighth Judicial Districts to receive the Honorable Michael F. Dillon Award for outstanding advocacy on behalf of children.