

STATE OF COLORADO

Office of the Child's Representative

1580 Logan Street Suite 340
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 860-1517
Fax: (303) 860-1735
www.coloradochildrep.org



Linda Weierman
Executive Director

What is KIDS? KIDS (KidsVoice Integrated Data System) is an online case management and billing system developed for children's attorneys by children's attorneys. KIDS allows GALs to: electronically enter all case activity, including notes of hearings and visits; link relevant information regarding siblings; easily access placement and school information; and run reports to facilitate an efficient and effective GAL practice (e.g., a report on all kids represented by the GAL currently attending a specific school). KIDS will automatically generate bills for GAL activity, and it will replace the OCR's current online billing system. **As this will be a data management system in addition to a billing system, attorneys must input case activity within 30 days of the completion of the activity.** KIDS is currently being used by attorneys at KidsVoice in Pennsylvania, statewide in Connecticut, and in some offices in Louisiana.

Why is the OCR implementing KIDS? KIDS will improve the OCR's ability to obtain accurate and current information for its budgetary and oversight functions. For example, the OCR will be able to run reports on the number of open cases, the number of children represented, and the number of new appointments during a specific time period. KIDS will also lead to more consistent and efficient case management by GALs and simplify the billing procedure for attorneys.

How will KIDS impact my GAL practice? Attorneys using KIDS in other states have stated that KIDS has reduced the time they spend doing administrative tasks, allowing them to focus more time on their representation of children. Billing procedures are simplified, obtaining information about individual cases is more expedient, and self-monitoring compliance with relevant standards for visiting is easy to do.

What equipment will I need to use KIDS? All you will need to use KIDS is a computer with access to the internet and a current version of either Internet Explorer, Chrome, or Firefox. Because KIDS is web-based, you will not need a specific computer type or program to use it. Attorneys who prefer to hand-write notes will be able to scan and attach them in the KIDS system.

What information will OCR be able to access about my cases from KIDS? The OCR will be able to run reports using the aggregate data entered into KIDS (e.g., number of kids represented by an individual GAL, average time between placement and visit for a specific or group of GALs, or frequency of court hearings in a particular judicial district) and some case-specific information. The OCR will not access your typed or handwritten notes.

Will others be able to access information about my cases from KIDS? All GALs will be able to access both the list of parties to a case and the case number which should facilitate locating other attorneys who are involved with a family. But, only the attorney assigned to the case and the OCR will be able to view any information about activities for that specific case. It is possible in the future that the system will allow a GAL to give another GAL access to a specific case for coverage purposes. The hosting provider for KIDS will be Hosting.com, which is a secure hosting provider.

When will KIDS be implemented in my district? KIDS will be implemented for the OCR's model staff offices in March 2011, and it will be rolled out statewide in July 2011. Beginning July 1, 2011, all GALs will begin use of KIDS and all billing for case activity on or after July 1, 2011 will take place through KIDS.

Will the OCR provide training on the use of KIDS? Yes. The OCR will provide accessible training to all GALs prior to the implementation of KIDS and will provide ongoing training as needed to ensure successful use of KIDS. A training schedule will be provided in the upcoming months. Because KIDS is an extremely user-friendly system, the OCR does not anticipate GALs will have a difficult time integrating the use of KIDS into their practice.