SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 13-09

Application of the Child Sexual Abuse Reporting Amendment Act of 2012 to D.C. Court Employees who are not Mandatory Reporters Under D.C. Code § 4-1321.02

WHEREAS, the Child Sexual Abuse Reporting Amendment Act of 2012, D.C. Law 19-315, requires "[a]ny person who knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, that a child is a victim of sexual abuse . . . [to] immediately report such knowledge or belief to the police" or the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA);

WHEREAS, non-judicial D.C. Court employees, ¹ in the regular course of business, may encounter allegations of sexual abuse of a child in court filings, pleadings or testimony that are subject to a judicial determination on credibility;

WHEREAS, non-judicial D.C. Court employees who are not mandatory reporters under D.C. Code § 4-1321.02 are not in a position to establish the credibility of an allegation of sexual abuse of a child without a judicial determination;

WHEREAS, reporting all allegations of child abuse encountered in the regular course of business by non-judicial D.C. Court employees who are not mandatory reporters under D.C. Code § 4-1321.02 would place unnecessary burden on the judicial process and CFSA;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is by the Court,

ORDERED, that because allegations of sexual abuse of a child in court filings, pleadings or testimony do not give rise to reasonable cause to believe that a child is a victim of sexual abuse unless and until a judicial determination has been made, non-judicial D.C. Court employees who are not mandatory reporters under D.C. Code § 4-1321.02 shall not report such allegations unless so directed by the Court.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT

June 27, 2013

/s/

Acting Chief Judge Frederick H. Weisberg for Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield

¹ For purposes of this administrative order, the term "non-judicial D.C. Court employees" means all Court employees other than judicial officers. *See* D.C. Courts Personnel Policy 200.

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