NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges has a long established policy of encouraging the judiciary to engage in practices that foster the effective administration of justice as it pertains to the safety of victims of violence and their children; and

WHEREAS, researchers and practitioners who work in the domestic violence field come from a variety of personal and professional backgrounds and have historically viewed domestic violence from different and sometimes competing perspectives; and

WHEREAS, these competing perspectives have produced a widespread lack of agreement about the nature, causes, frequency, and appropriate legal treatment of domestic violence, with mixed and often contradictory messages about how to help the families who suffer it; and

WHEREAS, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, in concert with the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), initiated discourse to find ways to bring together and reconcile these competing views in order to benefit families suffering domestic violence and using family court services; and

WHEREAS, this discourse led to the Wingspread Conference on Domestic Violence and Family Courts, which has laid the foundation for further steps toward resolution of these competing views; and

WHEREAS, the Report from the Wingspread Conference on Domestic Violence and Family Courts sketches a framework for consensus and lays out steps toward that end;

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges hereby endorses in its entirety the Report and its findings and recommendations for further work.

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Signed:

Honorable Susan B. Carbon

President

Signed:

Honorable Patricia Martin

Secretary

Adopted this 9th day of March, 2008 By the Membership of the Board of Trustees Assembled in Conference In St. Louis, Missouri