



National Parents' Counsel Organization: Mission Statement

The mission of the National Parents' Counsel Organization is to achieve procedural and social justice for all families involved with child welfare systems, through legal, legislative, and policy advocacy. Recognizing that parents and their attorneys have largely been excluded from child welfare policy discussions at the national, state and local levels, we seek to ensure that parents are more at the center of all serious conversations about child welfare matters. In doing so, we aim to increase the focus on procedural and substantive due process issues, eliminating barriers to reunification and increasing the quality and quantity of services available to parents trying to maintain custody or reunify with their children in placement. We also seek to raise awareness that child welfare systems are involved disproportionately in the lives of low-income and minority families and to ensure equal treatment for all.

We seek to ensure that every parent who is in jeopardy of having a child removed or has had a child removed from his or her care by the child welfare system, is legally entitled to and is actually provided with representation by zealous counsel during the entire length of the court process. We believe that parents are entitled to counsel who are qualified attorneys, well versed in the relevant law and observant of the ABA standards of parent representation, and who are able to practice with sufficient resources to provide meaningful representation to all their clients. To that end, we seek to increase the quality of representation of parents in child welfare cases by organizing and supporting training, providing technical assistance and encouraging collaboration among attorneys representing parents in child welfare cases locally and nationally. Further, recognizing that the quality of representation is often hampered by the low fees paid to parent attorneys, we seek to increase the funding available for representation of parents.