



TEXAS CENTER  
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FOR THE JUDICIARY

**2018 Child Welfare Judicial Conference**

Addressing Human Trafficking in DFPS Conservatorship  
Hon. Angela Ellis, Associate Judge, 315<sup>th</sup> District Court  
November 13, 2018

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**Human Trafficking is Just Another Name for Sexual Abuse**

- We all have Human Trafficking dockets whether we think of it in those terms or not.

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**Don't Be Intimidated or Distracted by Terminology**

- Sexual abuse victims, aka Human Trafficking victims, are the original dual status/cross-over kids.

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### No Matter the Size or Resources of Your Jurisdiction, DFPS has Affirmative Obligations to Assist with Child Well-Being

- Placement
- Mental Health Services
- Education
- Normalcy Activities

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### It's All About Relationships

- You have the power to change lives (yours and theirs) by listening intently and respectfully.
- Your JPOs, caseworkers, CASAs, mentors, and faith-based support people have the power to demonstrate separately and together that healthy support groups exist and persist.
- Prosecutors, both civil and criminal, transform their practices when they are consistently engaged as team members. Everybody wins.

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### Every Judicial Conference You Will Ever Attend Will Emphasize the Judicial Power of Convening

- **There's a reason for that.**
- Every community is rich with this critical resource: people who want to help.
- Reframe: The work at hand already exists. Most of the helping roles already exist. You will be seeing these young people anyway. Why not do it with intention?

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### As Nonsensical As It May Sound...

- You will see these kids less if you see them more.
- And you will be much less likely to see their children one day.

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### Contact Information

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