

CITIZENS FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD INC

OVERVIEW



**CITIZENS FOSTER CARE
REVIEW BOARD, INC.
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CFCRB Inc.
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A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

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Collier County Dependency Court Judge, The Hon. Ted Brousseau (decd), realized that due to a burgeoning docket, he could only spend an average of 5 minutes hearing Dependency cases. He quickly realized these complex cases required more in-depth consideration. As a parent himself, Judge Brousseau understood the importance of the family unit and sought to identify a method where the Court could spend more time addressing the deficiencies and barriers that prevent dependent families from achieving permanency.

In 1990, following a Pilot Program in Dade County, the Florida Legislature passed Fl Statue 39.4531 creating CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS. Judge Brousseau, recognizing the value of volunteers as a connection of the court to the community, reached out to local leaders and the first organizational meeting to create a citizen's review panel was held in 1991. The Citizens Foster Care Review Board, Inc (CFCRB) filed Articles of Incorporation on 11/19/92 and the organization was granted 501(c)3 status on 03/24/93.

The CFCRB Inc now operates under FL Statutes 39.701 and 39.702. Since its inception, they have heard over 6,000 cases involving 10,000 children. By assuming part of the burden of the Dependency Court, the panel's work allows the court to focus more time and attention on each case in pursuit of an optimal outcome.

Panels consist of a cross-section of volunteers from the community who undergo specialized training to acquaint themselves with the Judicial Review process. Volunteers are also required to attend additional training sessions throughout the year.

Prior to each hearing, panel members review the numerous case documents pertinent to the review. The panel examines the safety, education, enrichment activities, medical, psychological, and emotional needs of the children. When a need is identified, the panel seeks to identify a potential remedy, which is then included in its recommendations to the court. Upon acceptance by the Judge, these recommendations become fully enforceable court orders.

Our vision remains steadfast in its commitment to children, young adults, and their families in the Dependency system---*That every child has the most meaningful outcome; that the court reach timely resolutions; that every child and young adult live in a safe, secure, healthy, and permanent home and that families are reunified whenever possible.*