



State of Arizona

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 1, 2011

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## **Governor Jan Brewer Names Members of the Arizona Child Safety Task Force**

### *Child Safety Experts to Recommend Reforms*

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today appointed members to the Arizona Child Safety Task Force. The group has been charged with reviewing child-safety policies in Arizona and recommending comprehensive reforms to improve the way in which the state oversees children under its care and investigates potential cases of abuse and neglect.

“There can be no higher priority than the safety of children under state supervision,” said Governor Brewer. “I’ve assembled the best child-safety experts in Arizona in order to review state procedures and identify ways to help the agency perform at the highest level. With the expertise of law enforcement, physicians, victim advocates and others who’ve devoted their lives to child safety, we can ensure that our state safeguards are the most effective possible.”

Child Safety Task force members include:

- Bill Montgomery, Maricopa County Attorney
- Justice Robert Brutinel, Arizona Supreme Court
- Judge Michael McVey, Maricopa County Superior Court
- Clarence Carter, Director, Arizona Department of Economic Security
- Steve Twist, President, Arizona Voice for Crime Victims
- Dr. J. Kipp Charlton, Pediatrician, Maricopa Medical Center
- Dr. Cindy Knott, Vice President, ChildHelp
- Dr. Steven Anderson, Director, ASU School of Social Work
- Veronica Bossack, Assistant Director, Division of Children Youth and Families, Department of Economic Security
- Cassandra Larsen, Director, Governor’s Office for Children, Youth and Families
- Linda Gray, Arizona State Senator
- Leah Landrum-Taylor, Arizona State Senator
- Eddie Farnsworth, Arizona State Representative
- Terri Proud, Arizona State Representative
- Dave Byers, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts
- Marty Shultz, Community Leader

- Anne Donahoe, State Foster Care Review Board, CASA Volunteer
- Lt. Katrina Alberty, Glendale Family Advocacy Center
- Grace Bee, Foster Parent

Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery will serve as Chairman of the Task Force, with DES Director Clarence Carter as Vice Chairman.

As part of its review, the Task Force will host at least two public hearings during which it will hear testimony from experts in the following areas: child protective services investigations and management, law enforcement investigations, the administrative office of the courts, social services, foster care, crisis shelters and group homes, and child welfare advocacy.

The Task Force must issue to the Governor – no later than December 31, 2011 – a detailed list of recommendations for statutory, organizational, management or protocol reforms necessary to enhance the welfare of children under state supervision or custody. Those recommendations will be in addition to a series of immediate reforms the Arizona Department of Economic Security announced last month in order to improve its operations, transparency and accountability when it comes to the safety and welfare of children under the state's oversight.

"I am honored to serve Governor Brewer as Chairman of the Child Safety Task Force," said Montgomery. "With the Governor's leadership and contributions from Task Force members, we will identify real reforms to protect Arizona's children when they need us most, and provide real help to families in crisis."

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