



# MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Nominations Open for 2018 Child Welfare Awards**

LANSING, MI, April 3, 2018 - The Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) is now accepting nominations for the 2018 Child Welfare Awards, which are given every year in the fall to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service to Michigan's foster children.

“The awards program provides a forum for recognition of the excellent work that is performed by child welfare professionals who work diligently to overcome systemic barriers and go above and beyond policy, court rule, and statutory standards to help ensure the safety, well-being, and timely permanency for children and families served by our foster care system,” said FCRB Program Manager James Novell.

One nominee from each of the following categories will be recognized, and nomination criteria can be found in each of the links:

- [Jurist of the Year](#)
- [Foster Care Worker of the Year](#)
- [Lawyer-Guardian Ad Litem of the Year](#)
- [Foster Parent of the Year](#)
- [Parent Attorney of the Year](#)

The nomination deadline is August 10. Finalists will be chosen by a panel of Foster Care Review Board members, and award winners are chosen by a panel of child welfare professionals and advocates, including award winners from the past year. This year's award recipients will be recognized at the FCRB annual training conference in October. Click [here](#) to view past recipients.

The Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) provides independent third-party review of cases in the state child foster care system. The FCRB also hears appeals by foster parents who believe that children are being unnecessarily removed from their care. Established by the Michigan Legislature in 1984, the Foster Care Review Boards Act helps ensure that children are safe and well cared for while in the state foster care system, and that their cases are being moved toward permanency in a timely and efficient manner.

The program is administratively housed within the State Court Administrative Office as a means of providing support to local courts in their monitoring of the state child welfare agency's (Michigan Department of Health & Human Services) care and supervision of children under the court's jurisdiction for child abuse or neglect. For more information about the FCRB, and for information about volunteering, visit [www.courts.mi.gov/fcrb](http://www.courts.mi.gov/fcrb).