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**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

**Lori A. Weaver**  
Commissioner

**Morissa Henn**  
Deputy Commissioner

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December 24, 2024

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Pursuant to RSA 94:6, the Department of Health and Human Services respectfully requests to place Brian Goodchild at Step 6 for the position of Supervising Staff Attorney, Division for Children, Youth and Families, Position #9U762, unclassified salary grade EE, earning \$102,482.00 effective January 24, 2025, upon Governor and Council approval. 36.8% Federal Funds and 63.2% General Funds.

**EXPLANATION**

The DCYF Legal Team is a dynamic group of experienced child protection attorneys and their legal assistants, who seek judicial protection for children subjected to abuse or neglect. The focus of our work is on the immediate protection of the child and strengthening, whenever possible, families to eliminate abuse and neglect in the home. The DCYF Legal Team provides in-house counsel to DCYF's staff in the eleven (11) District Offices throughout the State of New Hampshire.

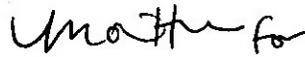
In accordance with HB 2, Chapter 79:218, Laws of 2023 the Department and the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office recommended, and the Korn Ferry Hay Group approved the labor grades establishing unclassified attorney positions within the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families. Specifically, there are three (3) full-time unclassified Supervising Attorneys (Labor Grade FF) who will serve as supervising legal counsel for multiple DCYF District Office Child Protection Units; five (5) full-time unclassified Supervising Staff Attorney positions (Labor Grade EE) who will serve as the onsite lead legal counsel for five DCYF District Office Child Protection Service Units; and, twenty-four (24) full-time unclassified Staff Attorney positions (Labor Grade DD) who will serve as the onsite legal counsel for DCYF in a District Office Child Protective Service Unit. The Korn Ferry Hay Group determined the letter grades recommended by the Department are an appropriate letter grade assignment given the Department's business needs and the positions' responsibilities.

The Supervising Staff Attorney positions are new leadership positions within the DCYF Legal Team, which require technical and subject matter expertise and advanced education and experience. Supervising Staff Attorney's participate in the development of plans, priorities and processes to achieve DCYF objectives, and are guided by broad policies. They are responsible for providing sound legal guidance and training to Staff Attorneys, as well as navigating novel and unique cases and legal assessments.

Attorney Goodchild graduated from Suffolk University of Law School in 2002. He has been a member of the New Hampshire Bar since 2002. Attorney Goodchild's legal experience includes practicing law in private practice (2002-2004), teaching paralegal studies at Mt. Washington College (2006-2017), and as a New Hampshire DCYF Staff Attorney from 2004-present (see resume). In his current role, Attorney Goodchild frequently takes on additional work, not only in his office, but in other DCYF offices due to vacancies when there is an unmet legal need. In this newly created leadership position of Supervising Staff Attorney, he will take on even more responsibilities, while still carrying the same caseload as a Staff Attorney. Attorney Goodchild has not had an increment increase in his salary since 2020. Placing Attorney Goodchild at a Step 6 acknowledges his 20 years of experience with DCYF by placing him at a salary commensurate with his experience within the unclassified salary wage schedule. Additionally, placing him at this salary will assist with the retention of DCYF attorneys, including Attorney Goodchild, as contemplated in RSA 94:3-b, by valuing longevity of professionals employed by the State of New Hampshire.

I respectfully request that Mr. Goodchild be placed in the position of Supervising Staff Attorney, Division for Children, Youth and Families, unclassified salary grade EE, at step 6 with and effective start date of January 24, 2025.

Sincerely,



Lori A. Weaver  
Commissioner

## **Brian J. Goodchild, Esquire**

### **EDUCATION**

- *Juris Doctorate*, Suffolk University Law School (1998-2002)  
Graduated *cum laude*.
- *Bachelor of Science*, Northeastern University, College of Criminal Justice, (1994-1998)  
Graduated *magna cum laude*.

### **LICENSURE**

- (Sept. 2002-present) Admitted to the Federal Bar and the State of New Hampshire Bar.

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

- October 2004-present: *Staff Attorney, Division for Children, Youth & Families*
  - Litigate cases where the State alleges a child has been abused or neglected by their parents. Duties include organizing discovery, depositions, witness preparation, litigation, and drafting legal pleadings.
  - Litigate cases where the State seeks to terminate the parental rights of parents who abused and/or neglected their child. Duties include answering and proffering interrogatories, developing case theories, witness interviews, litigation, drafting and responding to motions, drafting legal memoranda and organizing appellate issues.
- September 2006-April 2017: *Instructor of Paralegal Studies, Mt. Washington College*
  - Teach paralegal courses at the Manchester Campus Evening Program. Duties including teaching Introduction to Paralegalism; Legal Writing & Research; Criminal Law; Property Law; Wills & Estates; Personal Injury Law; Family Law and Administrative Law. Responsible for organizing curriculum, syllabus and course planning.
- April 2002-October 2004: *Associate, Bussiere & Bussiere, P. A.*
  - Duties included being court-appointed counsel for parents alleged to have abused or neglect their children as well as court-appointed counsel for children alleged to be delinquent or in need of services. Duties also include representing clients in personal injury cases; divorce; child custody; criminal and other civil litigation.

### **SPECIAL SKILLS**

Notary Public & Justice of the Peace (April 2002-present)