



ARC
||

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

Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner

Morissa Henn
Deputy Commissioner

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301-3857
603-271-9200 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 9200
Fax: 603-271-4912 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964 www.dhhs.nh.gov

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 Darin Hood-Tucker at Step 6 for the position of Supervising Staff Attorney, Division for Children, Youth and Families, Position #9U764, 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.

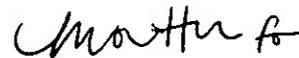
In accordance with HB 2, Chapter 79:218, Laws of 2023 the Department and the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office recommended, and the Korn Ferry Hay Group approved the labor grades establishing unclassified attorney positions within the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, 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 Hood-Tucker graduated from the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law and became a member of the New Hampshire Bar in 1993. Attorney Hood-Tucker's legal experience includes practicing law in private practice (1993-2000) and as a New Hampshire DCYF Staff Attorney from 2000-present (see resume). In her current role as a DCYF Staff Attorney, Attorney Hood-Tucker frequently takes on additional work, not only in her 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, she will take on even more responsibilities, while still carrying the same caseload as a Staff Attorney. Attorney Hood-Tucker has not had an increment increase in her salary since 2015. Placing Attorney Hood-Tucker at a Step 6 acknowledges her years of experience as an attorney, including nearly 25 years of experience with DCYF, by providing a salary commensurate with her experience within the unclassified wage schedule. Additionally, placing her at this salary will assist with the retention of DCYF attorneys, including Attorney Hood-Tucker, as contemplated in RSA 94:3-b, by valuing longevity of professional employees with the State of New Hampshire.

I respectfully request that Ms. Hood-Tucker 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

DARIN HOOD-TUCKER, ESQ.

EDUCATION:

JURIS DOCTOR May 1993
UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FRANKLIN PIERCE SCHOOL OF LAW, Concord, NH

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE May 1987
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, Boulder, Co.
Major: Psychology Minor: Women's Studies

LICENSE:

NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION October 1993 - present

EXPERIENCE:

STAFF ATTORNEY March 17, 2000 - present
New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY October 1993-March 2000
Backus, Meyer, Solomon, and Rood
Manchester, N.H.