

## **Practice Standards**

December, 2012

### **Section XVII, Representation of Parents in Dependent/Neglect Cases**

#### **XVII. REPRESENTATION OF PARENTS IN DEPENDENT/NEGLECT CASES**

##### **GOALS:**

- A. To actively, professionally, and zealously advocate for parents whose children are the subject of actions under the Child Abuse and Neglect laws of Montana and afford them every legal opportunity to preserve their parental rights.**
- B. To serve the state interest of the client and be independent from the court and other participants in the litigation, including the client's parents or guardians, and be unprejudiced and uncompromised in representing the client. Attorneys representing parents shall comply with the general standards for public defenders as well as these specific standards.**