

Joe Lombardo  
Governor

Richard  
Whitley, MS  
Director



DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*

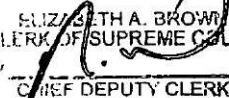


Dena Schmidt  
Administrator

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

FILED

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ELIZABETH A. BROWN  
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT  
BY  CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

Via email to [nvseclerk@nvcourts.nv.gov](mailto:nvseclerk@nvcourts.nv.gov)  
Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of Nevada  
c/o Elizabeth A. Brown  
Clerk of the Supreme Court  
201 South Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701-4702

RE: Written Comment in Support of ADKT 0445

Dear Honorable Members of the Supreme Court of Nevada,

My office serves as the federally designated Legal Assistance Developer for the State of Nevada pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 3058j. In this function I am charged with increasing state capacity for the provision of legal services to older adults, improving the quality and quantity of legal services for older adults, as well as engaging in activities to secure and maintain the rights of older adults. Our agency currently provides funding for legal services to all of Nevada's legal services providers across the state. I also have the distinct honor and privilege of serving as a current member of the Access to Justice Commission.

Clients seeking assistance from one of our legal services providers across the state rarely present only with a legal issue – they have social services needs, complex medical needs, food insecurity, and other fundamental needs. As mentioned by many others, one such immediate need is transportation to and from legal appointments, or access to court/weather appropriate clothing. Legal Services are a critical component of the "no wrong door" initiative, which ensures that individuals get connected no matter what door they enter to our wide array of programs and supports. It is critical that attorneys and legal services are recognized as part of a larger holistic service array. Therefore, attorneys and other legal services providers should not be precluded from providing modest humanitarian aid while they work to connect indigent and low-income clients with Nevada's 211 service or other programs across the Department of Health and Human Services.

I echo the comments of the UNLV Boyd School of Law faculty directors and supervising clinical attorneys who identified how important it is for legal services to partner with other non-profit organizations and advertise that to prospective clients. In that vein, I urge the Court to follow their recommendations regarding *not* adopting provisions of Model Rule 1.8e(iii) and Model Rule 1.8 (e)(i).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional comments.

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Sincerely,



JENNIFER M. RICHARDS

Chief Rights Attorney and State Legal Assistance Developer

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