



**State of South Carolina
The Family Court of South Carolina
In the Ninth Judicial Circuit**

Judge Michèle Patrão Forsythe
Family Court of South Carolina
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May 3, 2022

I am a Judge of the Family Court of South Carolina with my home circuit in the Ninth Judicial Circuit, Charleston County. I firmly support the implementation and sustainability of South Carolina Infant Mental Health Association's HRSA-22-073 Application for the expansion of a Safe Babies Court in Charleston.

As a duly elected Judge of the Family Court of South Carolina, my years on the bench have helped me to develop a profound understanding that infants and toddlers who are involved with the child welfare system are more likely to have enduring health, safety and wellness when and if there is a system that promotes and ensures intentional and individual services within the community for the child and the child's family.

Like all of the Judges of the Family Court in this state, I am devoted to doing what I can to ensure that meaningful services are available to help abused and neglected children move through the Family Court system as quickly, and as safely possible.

I am committed to collaborating with Department of Social Services and other South Carolina agencies to develop and implement processes that promote improved outcomes for children and families.

I recognize that South Carolina will need funding to successfully launch infant-toddler court teams and grow the professional capacity of all of our professionals serving young children and their families.

It is my honor to support this endeavor, which I hope will assist many of our most vulnerable small citizens in South Carolina. Children are our most precious and most important treasure in South Carolina, and I am hopeful that this program will be successful in supporting South Carolina's children.

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RE: Safe Babies Court
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Please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone, electronic mail or by United States Mail, should I be of any further assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

/s/

Judge Michèle Patrão Forsythe
Family Court of South Carolina