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MEDIA RELEASE

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UM LAW SCHOOL TO WRITE MANUAL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

MISSOULA--

A handbook on the legal procedures for handling cases of child abuse and neglect will be prepared and published by the University of Montana School of Law this fall.

According to Noel K. Larrivee, an adjunct professor of law at UM who is director of the handbook project, the manual will be written primarily for county attorneys and social workers who deal with cases of child abuse and neglect and will include recent legislative revisions and court decisions in the law.

The project is funded by a \$4,320 grant from the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS).

Larrivee said the handbook will assist persons who work with child abuse cases to operate with more uniformity and consistency statewide. He said the manual will include statutory legislation in dependent and neglect proceedings, case annotations, definitions, a step-by-step procedure to follow in handling cases and sample legal and information forms.

The handbook will contain the statutory procedures for abuse cases, Larrivee said, but it will be edited by himself and UM law students to make it more easily understandable by both lawyers and non-lawyers.

Larrivee added that a portion of the grant will be used to conduct a conference next spring on child abuse and neglect for Montana district court justices. The handbook also will be adapted for use by the judges.

(over)