

Important Numbers

My Family

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

My Social Worker

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

My CASA or GAL

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

My Lawyer

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

Your Rights

You have the right to be notified of the date and time of your court hearings.

You have the right to be at your court hearings and to talk about your case plan.

You have the right to speak with the judge about your case plan.

This brochure is a collaborative publication of the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts and DSHS Children's Administration. To obtain additional copies, go to: www.courts.wa.gov/newsinfo/publication/ and scroll to "Foster Youth Court Hearing Brochure"



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Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

CA Children's Administration

Foster Youth and Court Hearings

What do I need to know?
Is it even worth it to go?



Do I have to show up for my court hearings?

It all depends on the kind of hearing.

If it is a hearing about where you will live or services you might receive, you are not REQUIRED to go but it's probably a good idea. If it is a court hearing about an offense that you were involved in, you MUST attend the hearing.

If I don't have to go then why bother?

People at your court hearings are making decisions about YOUR life. You have a right to know what is being said and to speak up for yourself. The judge and others may want to know...

- Do you like where you live? If not, what could be better?
- Are you visiting with siblings and how are the visits going?
- Are you visiting with your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and how are those visits going?
- Do you want to go home and if so, do you know what must be done to keep you safe?
- What do you think should happen in your case?
- Do you have a copy of your Individual Service and Safety Plan (ISSP) and were you notified of your next court hearing?

Things I'd like to know

? I don't want to go to court alone. Who will go with me or take me to court?

A Ask your caregiver, social worker, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) or lawyer to arrange transportation and go with you to court.

? I would feel better just talking with the judge about my case, can I do that?

A Yes, before your court date, talk with the people involved with your case to arrange a meeting with the judge.

? How do I ask for a lawyer if I want one?

A If you are at least 12-years-old, you can ask your social worker, CASA, GAL or the judge directly to help you get a lawyer to represent you in court.

It's your life and you have a say in the decisions that are made. Speak up and be heard!

? I don't want to go to court but I want the court and judge to hear what I have to say about my case plan. What else can I do to let the court know my views?

A You can write a letter and ask your social worker, CASA, GAL or lawyer to deliver it to the court. Or, you can ask for the address and mail your letter to the court where it will be put in the official court record.

