



2015 Youth Survey

In every case where DHS (the state) takes custody of a child or files a petition, the court provides an attorney to the youth. This attorney does not work for DHS. They advocate for the best interest of the youth. We want to make sure that every attorney assigned to represent a juvenile in court is meeting the standards for representation of children. To do so, we want to hear from you on how your attorney is doing and what you think of the court process. This allows us to make sure that the attorneys know when they are doing a good job and when they need to make some changes to help them work better.

All answers will be collected and pooled together anonymously. No attorney will know who made what statement in order to protect confidentiality. After completing this survey, you will have the chance to complete an extra form for a chance to win a \$50 Wal-Mart Gift Card. This form is completely separate from your survey so that we cannot tell which survey is yours. Names stay in the drawing for a whole year, so you have multiple chances to win! It is okay if you do not want to enter the drawing.

If you do not understand a question, just answer the best way you can, and then move on. It is okay to ask an adult to help read the questions and answers to you, but please be honest in your answers.

This survey is to gather responses directly from the youth only. If you are administrating the survey please do so in a neutral way - show no signs of emotion, approval or disapproval. There will be other survey opportunities for stakeholders to share their experiences. If you are a foster parent, we value your experiences as well and there will be an opportunity for you to participate in the stakeholder survey, so please do not answer this survey on behalf of the children in your home.

- 1. If you received a postcard, please enter your password here (found on the bottom of the postcard). If you did not receive a postcard, leave this space blank.** _____
- 2. Who is your attorney ad litem (lawyer)? (If you do not know, just check "I'm not sure if I have a lawyer" or "I know that I have a lawyer but I cannot remember his/her name").**

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Armstrong | <input type="checkbox"/> Kim Godfrey | <input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Olson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Margaret Beam | <input type="checkbox"/> Lacey Gramling | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Phillips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debra Wilson Bell | <input type="checkbox"/> Linda Hamilton | <input type="checkbox"/> Sonya Platt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evan Bell | <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Hays | <input type="checkbox"/> Carla Reyes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kim Bibb | <input type="checkbox"/> J. Tyler Henderson | <input type="checkbox"/> Emily Reynolds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thad Bishop | <input type="checkbox"/> Charles Hoskyn | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelton Sargent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christina Boyd | <input type="checkbox"/> Glen C. Hudspeth | <input type="checkbox"/> Linda Scribner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Brandon | <input type="checkbox"/> Terry Goodwin Jones | <input type="checkbox"/> Sherri Stewart |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amber Briner | <input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Kendricks | <input type="checkbox"/> Jodi Strother |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tjuana Byrd | <input type="checkbox"/> Gina Knight | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Taylor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christina Carr | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeremy Landon | <input type="checkbox"/> Dawanna Terry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jo Carson | <input type="checkbox"/> Gail Laster | <input type="checkbox"/> Jimmy Turnbow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shauna Clark - Roberts | <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Lester | <input type="checkbox"/> Jamaal Walker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Casey Copeland | <input type="checkbox"/> Laura Lindly | <input type="checkbox"/> Margo Warner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lana Davis | <input type="checkbox"/> Deidre Luker | <input type="checkbox"/> Vickie Warner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> J. Carter Dooley | <input type="checkbox"/> Lea Ann Lynch | <input type="checkbox"/> Diane Warren |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trecca Dyer | <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Manso | <input type="checkbox"/> Caroline Wilson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dawn Egan | <input type="checkbox"/> Taura McDaniel | <input type="checkbox"/> Kelli Wright |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kasi Erwin-Hill | <input type="checkbox"/> Teresa McLemore | <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure if I have a lawyer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greg Fallon | <input type="checkbox"/> Lori Miles | <input type="checkbox"/> I know that I have a lawyer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Faught | <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Moats, Jr. | but I cannot remember his/her |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amy Freedman | <input type="checkbox"/> Tammy Mullins | name |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carla Fuller | <input type="checkbox"/> Kathleen O'Connor | |

3. How old are you? _____

4. How long have you been in foster care?

- Less than 1 month
- 1-3 months
- 4-6 months

- 7-11 months
- 1-3 years
- More than 3 years

5. Where are you currently staying?

- Division of Youth Services (DYS)
- Foster Home
- Group Home
- At home with my parents
- Independent Living (ILP)
- Pre-Adoptive Home

- Relative's home
- Residential Treatment Facility
- Shelter
- Therapeutic Foster Home
- Other (please specify): _____

6. In what county is your case? (If you do not know your county, you can write the town or where the courthouse is. If you do not know either, simply write "Don't Know.") _____

7. Have you always had the same attorney?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

8. Has your attorney explained to you who they are and what they do for you?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

9. Do you go to court hearings about your case?

- Yes, always
- Yes, sometimes
- I participate over the phone or video
- No
- Other (please specify): _____

10. Do you talk with your attorney between court hearings?

- No
- Yes, at least a couple times a month
- Yes, at least once a month
- Yes, at least once every 2-3 months
- Yes, at least once every 4-5 months
- Yes, at least once every 6 months

Use the space below to provide additional comments about court hearings and preparing for court.

11. Do you know how to contact your attorney?

- Yes
- No

12. How do you talk with your attorney? (Check all that apply)

- Email
- Phone calls
- Text
- In person
- Other (please specify): _____

13. When you try to contact your attorney, do they get back to you quickly?

- Yes, always
- Yes, generally
- No
- Have not tried to contact my attorney

Use the space below to provide additional comments about contacting your attorney.

14. Please check the box to tell us if you Agree or Disagree with the following statements about your attorney.

	Agree	Somewhere between Agree and Disagree	Disagree
I feel that I am involved in making decisions about my case and help to make sure I am getting the services I need.			
After my court hearings, I understand what is happening in my case.			
My attorney listens to my opinions. (Does not mean they always do what you want).			
My attorney keeps me up to date on any changes or important things that happen in my case.			
I feel comfortable talking to my attorney about myself and my case.			
My attorney makes sure the judge hears all of the important information about me and my case.			
My attorney speaks on my behalf in court.			
When my attorney and I do not agree on an issue, he/she either let the judge know that we do not agree or lets me tell the judge.			
My attorney involves me in making in making important decisions about my case.			
My attorney makes sure that I know when court dates are coming up.			
My attorney explains to me what will happen in court.			
My attorney answers any questions I have about the court or hearings.			

15. How would you rate your relationship with your attorney?

- Excellent
 Poor
 Good
 I don't know who my attorney is
 Just Okay

16. Overall, how would you rate the job your attorney is doing for you?

- Excellent
 Poor
 Good
 I don't know who my attorney is.
 Just Okay

17. Is there anything else that you want us to know about your attorney?

18. Do you know what a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) is?

- Yes
 No (Go to Question 25)

19. Do you have a CASA volunteer that works with you?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

20. Does your CASA volunteer come to your court hearings?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

21. How often do you have in person visits with your CASA?

- Every couple of weeks
- Once a month
- At least once every 3 months
- At least once every 6 months
- I do not see my CASA

22. Please check the box to tell us if you Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree with the following statements about your CASA.

	Agree	Somewhere between Agree and Disagree	Disagree
I feel comfortable talking to my CASA about myself and my case.			
My CASA listens to my opinions. (Does not mean they always do what you want).			
My CASA keeps me up to date on any changes or important things that happen in my case.			
My CASA explains their recommendations about my case to me.			
My CASA explains to me what will happen in court.			
My CASA answers any questions I have about the court or my case.			

23. How would you rate your relationship with your CASA?

- Excellent
- Good
- Just Okay
- Poor

24. Please give us any comments you have about your CASA. (Have they been helpful? How is your relationship? Do they explain what is going on and how it affects you?)

25. Do you have any ideas or suggestions about how to improve youth’s experience in court?

26. How did you find out about this survey (Please check one).

- CASA
- Independent Living Program
- YAB (Youth Advisory Board)
- Other (please specify): _____
- Caseworker
- Other Foster Youth
- CIP Outreach Coordinator

27. Did someone help you take this survey (read you the questions, read you the answers, etc...)?

- Yes
- No

28. If yes, who helped you?

- Caseworker
- CASA Volunteer
- Foster Parent
- YAB (Youth Advisory Board)
- Attorney
- Other (please specify): _____
- Facility or Residential staff

Please complete the contact information sheet to be entered for a chance to win a \$50 Wal-Mart Gift Cards. Thirty-six cards will be given away throughout the year. Names stay in the drawing for the whole year, so the earlier a survey is completed, the more chances you have to win!

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Current address: _____

Phone number to reach you: _____