

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION - JUVENILE COURT PROJECT

Koppers Building, 11th Floor · 436 Seventh Avenue · Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Telephone (412) 391-4467 · Fax (412) 391-4465

APPLICATION FOR REPRESENTATION*

INSTRUCTIONS: PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY AND COMPLETE BOTH PAGES OF THE APPLICATION.

Name (Last, First, Initial): _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security No.: _____

Inmate No.: _____ Counselor: _____

Pod No.: _____ Counselor's Phone No.: (____) _____

Correctional Institution: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Arrested For (Charges): _____

Defense Attorney: _____ Telephone No.: _____

Parole/Probation Ofc.: _____ Telephone No.: _____

Conviction(s) For: _____

Sentence: _____

Date Incarcerated: _____ Date Minimum Up: _____

Date Maximum Up: _____

Have you ever been represented by a Parent Advocate before? _____

If yes, then: a) Who represented you? _____

b) When were you represented? _____

c) Who was the Judge/ Hearing Officer? _____

CYF Caseworker _____ Reg. Ofc. _____

Caseworker's phone no. _____

Next hearing date _____ Type of Hearing _____

Judge/Hearing Officer for next hearing _____

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List below all your children under the age of 18.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Name of Other Parent</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____

List below two people who will always be able to tell us your current address and phone number.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>	<u>Relationship to You</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____

I, hereby, certify that all of the preceding information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I, hereby, request that a parent advocate attorney be assigned to represent me in Allegheny County Juvenile Court dependency proceedings concerning my child(ren). I understand my responsibility to report to my parent advocate any changes in income or household composition which would affect my eligibility for free legal services. I understand my responsibility to inform my parent advocate immediately of any change in my address or phone number. I further understand that if I fire my parent advocate, no other parent advocate will be provided to represent me. I understand that appeals will be filed by the Juvenile Court Project only when the Juvenile Court Project determines them to have a meritorious legal basis. I understand that my client file will be destroyed five years after the case closes.

Signature _____ Date _____



Eligible _____ Ineligible _____ PA Assigned _____

Intake By _____ Intake Date _____

Revision Date 09/10/09



Protect Your Rights! What You Should Do Now If You are Incarcerated And Your Child is in Foster Care or County-Paid Kinship Care

When your child is in foster care or kinship care, the law says you can't wait to act. You need to take steps now to protect your rights. Know your rights and responsibilities and stay involved with your child's life during your incarceration.

YOUR RIGHTS

If your child is in foster or kinship care, you have the right to:

Have a say where your child is placed. If you have a safe relative or family friend who can care for your child, tell your Agency caseworker. The Agency must try to first place children with relatives.

Visit your child. Unless a judge said you can't, you have the right to regular, in-person visits with your child.

Know how your child is doing and where your child is living. The Agency must keep you informed about your child's health, education, and development. They must give you the address of where your child is staying, unless a judge says not to.

Help make plans for your child. A Family Service Plan (FSP) will be made and you will be given goals to meet. The Agency must involve you in making the FSP, and you should have a say about what goals and supports will help your family.

Help to meet your goals. The Agency must make "reasonable efforts." That means that the Agency should help you stay in contact with your child and support you in meeting your goals.

An attorney. If you can't afford an attorney, you can request that the court appoint you one. Your attorney must communicate with you and represent your wishes in court.

Participate in court hearings. If you can't be taken to court for your hearing, ask to participate by phone.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

If your child is in foster or kinship care, you have the responsibility to:

Make regular contact with your child. Have in person visits, send letters and ask for phone contact. You can also send cards and gifts, no matter the age of the child. Staying in touch is good for your child and shows the judge and the Agency that you care about your child.

Stay in touch with your children's workers. Make sure you have the names, phone numbers, and addresses of the Agency workers who work with your family. Let them know about the progress you are making and ask them for updates about your child.

Work on your Family Service Plan goals. Do everything you can to meet the goals you have been given while incarcerated. Tell the Agency and your attorney if goals on your FSP aren't possible in jail.

Participate in court hearings. If you can't be there in person or by phone, ask your attorney to represent your wishes in court.

Stay in touch with your attorney. Tell your attorney about your progress on your FSP goals and any problems you are having. Be sure to give your attorney any papers you have that show you are working on your FSP goals. This information can be given to the court.

Help in planning for your child. Help to make educational, medical, and treatment decisions for your child. Stay informed about how your child is doing and what supports your child needs.

Your Parental Rights: What You Need to Know

The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) says that if a child has been in foster or kinship care for 15 of the past 22 months, the Children & Youth Agency must file to terminate parental rights (TPR) so that the child can be adopted. But, the Agency does **not** have to do this in certain situations, like if your child is living with a relative or if adoption is not a good idea for your child. This decision is made on a case-by-case basis. The most important thing you can do to prevent losing your parental rights is to work on having a strong relationship with your child.

