

Amended Youth in Court Protocol: Presiding Juvenile Judge Order 2015-2



Giving Our Youth A Voice

GOALS:

- To increase youth participation in court
 - Presumption that children will be allowed and encouraged to come to court
 - No minimum age for participation
- To increase compliance with C.R.S. §19-3-702 (3.7)
 - The court conducting the permanency hearing shall consult with the child in an age-appropriate manner regarding the child's permanency plan.



Our Obligations:

- GAL is required to personally meet with the child/youth.
 - C.J.D. 04-06
 - OCR Requirements
- GAL will ascertain the child's position and provide this to the court.
 - C.J.D. 04-06
- GALs, CASAs, and caseworkers will make sure that children know they have a right to be heard in court.
 - Actual attendance, letter, fax, email, GAL speak on his/her behalf, etc.
- If parties disagree about the child's attendance, the GAL will make the final decision.

Strategies to Achieve Our Goals:

- If the child wishes to participate in court, the GAL should make arrangements for transportation.
 - CASA volunteers are available to assist with transportation.
- GAL should email clerk and parties to inform them if the child will be attending court.
 - Docket priority
- If the child does not attend court, the GAL should inform the court of the child's position.
 - GAL should inform the court why the child is not present.

Additional Strategies:

- Child can be heard separately (C.R.S. §19-1-106 (5)) – GAL can file a written motion or provide notice on the record.
 - New code to track these meetings
- Prepare the child for court.
- Prepare the judicial officer for any issues the child would like to address.

