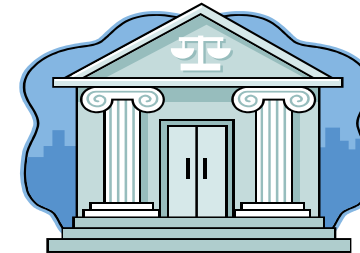


MY CASE CONTACTS

Court Information	Case #:	Judge:
	Court Address:	Phone #:
Attorney	Name:	Phone #:
	Office Address:	Email Address:
Caseworker	Name:	Phone #:
	Office Address:	Email Address:
Other Contacts <i>Examples:</i> *Service Providers *Court Appointed Special Advocate *Parent Partner	Name/Role:	Phone #:
	Meeting Days/Times:	Office Address:
	Name/Role:	Phone #:
	Meeting Days/Times:	Office Address:
	Name/Role:	Phone #:
	Meeting Days/Times:	Office Address:
Child's Lawyer (LGAL)	Name:	Phone#:
	Office Address:	Email Address:

Child Protection Pamphlet

For Parents of Children in the Child Protection System



Being involved in a child abuse, neglect, and foster care case can be confusing and stressful for a family. Not knowing what to expect can make it even harder. This pamphlet will help you understand what will happen next. Keep this pamphlet with you and write in it the names of the people who will be working with you and important dates you do not want to miss.

IMPORTANT MEETING OR HEARING DATES

Hearing/Meeting	Date	Time	Place
Preliminary Hearing			
Meeting with Caseworker			

WHERE WILL MY CHILD(REN) GO IF REMOVED FROM MY

HOME? If your child(ren) has been removed by Children's Protective Services (CPS), your child(ren) will likely stay with relatives or foster parents. It is important to let your caseworker know of any and all relatives. A caseworker will be assigned to your case who may be from the Department of Human Services or a private agency.



If the court temporarily removes your child(ren) from your home, the caseworker will prepare an initial service plan within 30 days. This plan will include a background of your child(ren) and family, an evaluation of the issues that led to removal of your child(ren), the expected length of stay away from your home, and specific goals for you to meet within specific time frames. Your participation in the initial service plan is voluntary, but you are encouraged to take advantage of the services that will be made available to you to help your child(ren) return home. The court will decide when you can visit your child.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? You should work with your lawyer, the caseworker, and the court to develop goals and determine what needs to happen before your child will be considered safe in your home. Once these goals are developed, you need to work to successfully complete them.

Make sure you keep appointments and go to all court hearings. It shows you want to make things better for your child(ren). Write down dates (see front page), times and meeting places. If you cannot attend, call your lawyer. Tell your caseworker if you need help with transportation to a meeting or hearing.

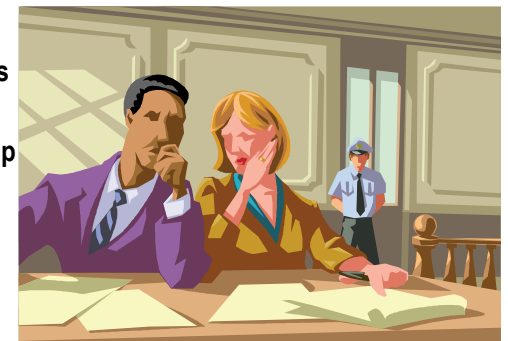
If your child(ren) is temporarily placed back in the home, it may be conditioned upon your successful participation and completion in court ordered services. Sometimes services are provided in your home to support the return of the child to your care.

On the back of this pamphlet is space for you to write down important names and contact information for the various people who will be assisting you with your case. Remember that these professionals are there to help you and it is a good idea to stay in close contact with them. If you need help, call someone. You are not alone in this process.

*See the "Child Protection Handbook" for more information on the court process and child welfare system located at: <http://courts.mi.gov/administration/scao/officesprograms/cws/pages/standards.aspx>.

Your Rights & Responsibilities

- 1. You have the right to have a lawyer who works for you. If you cannot afford a lawyer you may ask that one be appointed for you.** To find out if you can get a lawyer appointed, you can fill out an application that is available at the court. You have the right to be told about all court hearings.
- 2. You have the right to ask your lawyer questions if there is something you do not understand.**
- 3. Be honest with your lawyer. Your lawyer is required to keep your conversations confidential.**
- 4. Maintain contact & discuss your case with your lawyer.** Trust your lawyer's expertise but also realize that your lawyer works for you. Make sure your lawyer knows what you want to do and stay in touch with your lawyer regularly.
- 5. Know what you are signing:** Do not sign anything that your lawyer has not discussed with you.
- 6. You have the right and responsibility to go to all court hearings.**
- 7. You have the right to a trial by judge or jury.**
- 8. You have the right to actively participate in the development of your treatment plan.** It is important to meet with your caseworker to talk about what will be most helpful for your family to include in the treatment plan.
- 9. You have the right to an interpreter if you do not speak or understand English.**
- 10. You may have additional rights if you or your children are a member or eligible for membership in a Native American tribe.**
- 11. Share any limitations or disabilities with your lawyer immediately.**



Disclaimer: The information contained in this pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.