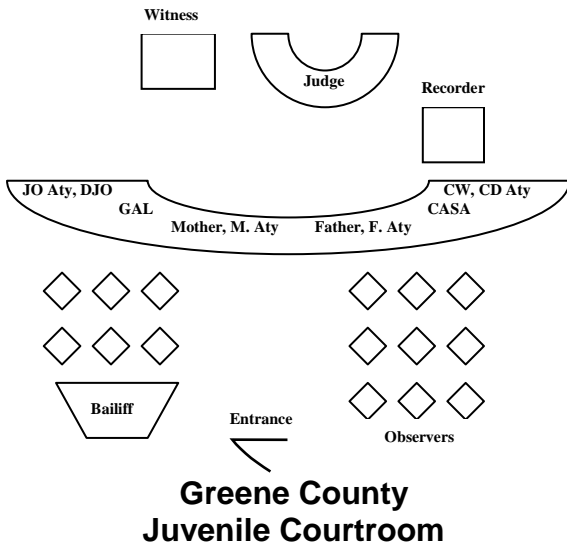


It is crucial that Older Youth participate and have an active voice in the Court Process and the decisions that affect their future

The KIC program is designed to facilitate Older Youth attendance at Court hearings through collaboration between the Juvenile Office, Case Management Agencies, Attorneys, and CASA.



PEOPLE YOU WILL SEE IN THE COURTROOM

Judge: Hears evidence regarding the case and ensures that the case progresses in a timely manner. He makes decisions based on the laws and the juvenile's best interest.

Guardian Ad Litem (GAL): Represents the youth in court. Makes oral recommendations to the Judge.

Deputy Juvenile Officer (DJO): Provides information and recommendations to the Juvenile Office Attorney and Judge.

Case Manager: Provides written reports and make recommendations to the CD Attorney and Judge.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA): Provides a written report and recommendations to the Judge.

Parent's Attorneys: Present the parent's case to the Judge.

Court Reporter: This person sits by the Judge. They record who appears in court, and what is said during the court hearing.

Bailiff: Their job is to maintain order in the courtroom. They provide protection and safety for all people in the courtroom.

TYPES OF HEARINGS

Protective Custody Hearing: This hearing is held to determine if the youth should remain in protective custody.

Jurisdiction/Disposition Hearing: This hearing has two parts. Jurisdiction determines if the allegations of abuse and/or neglect in the petition are true. If the allegations are found to be true then the court hears Disposition. The court then receives information on parent's current situation.

Disposition Review Hearing: This hearing is held every few months. The court then receives information on parent's current situation.

Permanency Hearing: This hearing must be held 12 months after the youth is placed in protective custody. The court hears evidence and determines a permanent plan for the youth.

Post Permanency Hearing: This hearing is held at least every 6 months. The court receives information regarding the status of the case, progress made by the parents, and progress on the permanency plan.

Termination of Parental Rights: Evidence is received about whether the parent's rights should be permanently terminated. The court also determines if this would be in the youth's best interest.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should I wear to court?

Appropriate clothes are formal clothes you would wear for an important occasion. Items not to wear: shorts, hats, or clothes with inappropriate words or symbols.

How do I get to court?

The foster parents, group home staff, or a family member that you may be placed with are encouraged to bring you to court. If those arrangements can't be made, then your caseworker may bring you to court.

Can I speak to the Judge?

Yes, you can speak to the Judge when you are in court. The Judge may ask you a specific question. You are encouraged to answer and share other information that you think is important for the Judge to know.

Can I speak to the Judge alone?

No. This is called ex-parte (one-sided) communication and it is not allowed. No party, including any attorney, juvenile officer, or case manager is allowed to speak to the Judge alone. The Judge may make special arrangements to speak with you, your attorney, and the Court Reporter alone. Although it is very unusual, under certain circumstances, it can happen.

What can I do if I do not agree with the Judge?

Immediately speak with your Guardian Ad Litem. Your attorney may then voice your concerns to the Judge. They may set up a meeting with you after the hearing to gather more information to present to the Judge at a later hearing. It is always your right to share your thoughts with the Guardian Ad Litem.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE ON MY CASE:

DJO: _____

Phone: _____

GAL: _____

Phone: _____

Case Worker: _____

Phone: _____

CASA: _____

Phone: _____

Greene County 31st Circuit



Kids In Court "KIC"

Let your voice be heard

**A program of the
Greene County
Juvenile Justice Center**

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