



CHILDREN'S COURT INFORMATION FOR FOSTER PARENTS

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(414) 257-7700

Foster Parents are encouraged to watch this Children's Court Orientation video:

<https://wcpds.wisc.edu/orientation-to-childrens-court/>

Foster parents and relative caregivers have the right to attend court hearings to understand what is going on with the child in their care and provide input on how the child is doing.

Common Questions about Court:

Q: My court hearing is on Zoom, how does that work?

A: Some court hearings are on Zoom. The Milwaukee County Circuit Court offers the ability to appear in court remotely using Zoom, a remote conferencing service. You can use Zoom from a computer, from a smartphone or mobile device or from a telephone. See page 2 for detailed instructions.

Q: When should I appear for a scheduled hearing?

A: It is best to arrive 15-20 minutes before the scheduled hearing. The judge likes to start on time, so it is important to be prompt. Be prepared to wait as multiple hearings are scheduled for each half hour time slot and some hearings may be delayed due to previous hearings going beyond their scheduled time.

Q: What should I wear?

A: A good rule of thumb is to wear something that you would feel comfortable wearing to a job interview. It's ok to dress casually, but clothing should be neat and not revealing.

Q: What is basic court etiquette?

A: You must show the judge respect and always address him or her as "Judge" or "Your Honor". Use good eye contact, and be polite and attentive. No food or drinks are allowed in the court room. Also, do not interrupt the judge or talk when others are talking. It's ok to ask to be heard on a certain issue if it's not addressed by other court parties.

Q: Who attends the court hearings?

A: The parents and their lawyers, the child or children (if age appropriate), the ongoing case manager, the foster parents/relative caregivers, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) if applicable, the Guardian Ad Litem, and the Assistant District Attorney.

Q: What if I don't understand the questions I am asked?

A: If you don't understand, ask the judge to explain. Do not guess at an answer and always tell the truth. If you do not understand the judge's or the attorney's question in a court hearing, do not answer the question until you understand it.

Q: Does everyone have to do what the judge says?

A: Yes, court orders must be followed. All parties must follow the directions of the judge. If you are not sure what the court expectation is, you can ask the judge to write it down for you.



Remote Court Appearances

The Milwaukee County Circuit Court offers the ability to appear in court remotely using Zoom, a remote conferencing service. You can use Zoom from a computer, from a smartphone or mobile device or from a telephone.

A meeting ID and a meeting password are required to participate in remote appearances. These are provided on the Notice of Hearing mailed or electronically sent to the parties. Only parties to the action should be appearing via Zoom. Unless otherwise specified on the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access (WCCA) website with respect to a particular case, members of the general public interested in viewing court proceedings can view a live stream via YouTube. Links to online court proceedings can be found on the www.WICourts.gov website under "Live Stream Courts."

How to Appear Remotely

Parties may appear at the hearing using Zoom on a computer, using Zoom on a smartphone or other mobile device or using Zoom on a telephone. If you are joining using a computer, you will need a web camera and microphone connected to your computer. If you don't have those items, then use a smartphone or mobile device. You can also join using just a telephone.

Appearing Remotely Using a Computer

1. Go to <https://zoom.us/>.
2. Click "Join a Meeting."
3. Enter meeting ID and meeting password from your Notice of Hearing document.

Note: If you have a microphone connected to your computer, do not also call in by phone. Doing so will create audio feedback during the session.

Appearing Remotely Using a Smartphone

1. Download the Zoom app to your smartphone from here: <https://zoom.us/>. The app is free.
2. Click "Join a Meeting."
3. Enter meeting ID and meeting password from your Notice of Hearing document.

Note: Download the app before your scheduled court hearing. Be sure your phone is fully charged. Using Zoom significantly drains the phone's battery.

Appearing Remotely by Telephone

1. Call [\(312\) 626-6799](tel:3126266799).



2. Enter meeting ID and meeting password from your Notice of Hearing document.

If the phone number does not work, try one of the following numbers by location:

- [\(646\) 558-8656](tel:6465588656) (New York)
- [\(301\) 715-8592](tel:3017158592)
- [\(346\) 248-7799](tel:3462487799) (Houston)
- [\(669\) 900-9128](tel:6699009128) (San Jose)
- [\(253\) 215-8782](tel:2532158782)

There are a number of 'How To' videos available on the Zoom [website](#).

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/mcps/ohc-provider/kinship>