

Parent-Child Relationship

Relationships are very important to youth as they grow and obtain more independence and establish their own identity. Family relationships are extremely important during this time. There are many laws governing family relationships, including marriage, emancipation, paternity, and guardianships. There are also many laws designed to protect and keep youth safe.



Marriage

Marriage is a legal contract between two people who love each other enough to become legally responsible for each other.

1. When can I get married?

You can marry when you are age eighteen. If you are at least age seventeen, you can marry if you get written permission from your parent or guardian. If you are under age seventeen, you can marry if you get the judge's permission.

Emancipation

There might be times when you feel as though you are able to live on your own without your parent's or guardian's help. There are laws that explain when youth can be emancipated, or are able to live on their own before they are age eighteen. As you will read below, not all youth are able to be emancipated.

1. What does emancipation mean?

If you are emancipated, you can make decisions about your life without your parent's or guardian's permission. Your parent or guardian no longer has the right to your control, custody, or to the money you make. Your parent or guardian also no longer has to financially support you. You can consent to your own marriage and to medical, psychological, psychiatric, educational, and social services. You can enlist in the military, enter into contracts, and own property. However, you must still attend school and are still under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

2. How do I get emancipated?

Emancipation is a dispositional alternative for delinquent youth and youth who are CHINS. (See below for CHINS information.) Therefore, unless you have been adjudicated a delinquent youth or found to be a CHINS, you cannot be

emancipated from your parents. However, even if you are a youth who can be emancipated, know that the juvenile judge does not emancipate youth very often. To be emancipated, the judge must decide that you no longer want to be under your parent's or guardian's control or protection, that you have enough money to support yourself, that you understand what it means to be free from your parent's or guardian's control and protection, and that you have an acceptable plan of how you will live on your own.

Paternity, Child Support, and Custody

Mothers and fathers are responsible for taking care of their children, regardless of whether the mother and father are married. Most mothers and fathers can get along and make decisions together about how to care for their children. However, there are laws that help parents who have a hard time getting along.

1. What is paternity?

Paternity means legally establishing who the biological father of a child is. Once the father has been legally established, the father is entitled to visitation or custody and is financially responsible for the care of the child. If a woman is married and has a child, her husband is legally presumed, or considered, the biological father. If a child is born within 300 days of the divorce, then the ex-husband is presumed to be the biological father.

2. If I am a mother or father and not married, how do I prove paternity of my child?

There are two ways to establish paternity. The first way is by having a blood test or genetic test to match the DNA between the child and the potential father. The second way is by the mother and the father completing a paternity affidavit. A paternity affidavit is a sworn written statement that the person identified as the father is the child's biological father. A paternity affidavit can be completed at the hospital where the baby is born, within 72 hours of the baby's birth, or at the local health department, before the child reaches the age of emancipation. A person under the age of 18 must have the chance to consult with an adult before signing the affidavit. Simply having the father's name on the birth certificate does not establish paternity.

3. How do I prove paternity if the other parent is not willing to cooperate?

You can contact your local county prosecutor's office to help you establish paternity. The prosecutor's office will also help you obtain a child support order and will help enforce the order. The prosecutor's office will also help establish custody and visitation for the child. Visit the website www.in.gov/dcs/support/ for more information.

4. What is child support?

Child support is the amount of



money each parent is court-ordered to pay to take care of his or her child. In determining the amount of child support, the judge will consider factors such as the financial resources of both parents and the medical and educational needs of the child. Both parents will have to fill out a child support worksheet. The child sup-

port worksheet lists the parents' income and expenses and helps the judge calculate what each parent is able to pay. If you refuse to pay the court ordered amount, the county prosecutor will enforce and collect child support payments through ways such as taking money directly out of your paycheck or suspending your driver's license. You cannot escape your duty to pay for your child by not having a job. If you do not pay the court ordered child support amount, you can be held in contempt of court and be sent to jail. The duty to pay child support ends when the child becomes 21 years old unless the child is emancipated before age 21. If a child is incapacitated, the duty to pay child support can continue beyond age 21. If a child is over age 18, not in school and capable of supporting him/herself, the court may terminate or modify child support.

5. How is custody determined?

If the parents aren't married, the mother has sole legal custody of the child, unless the parents sign a paternity affidavit agreeing to share joint legal custody or unless the judge makes an order saying otherwise. Having sole legal custody means having the child live with you and being able to make all the decisions about the child's medical, educational, and religious upbringing. In decid-

ing whether it is in the best interest of a child to live with the mother or father, the judge looks at factors such as the age and sex of the child, the medical and educational needs of the child, and the wishes of the parents.

6. What visitation will the other parent have?

After establishing paternity, the judge will conduct a hearing to determine the issues of custody and visitation. The noncustodial parent, or the parent the child doesn't live with, is entitled to reasonable visitation unless the judge finds

that visitation with the parent might harm the child's physical or emotional health or development. If the judge is afraid the parent might harm the child, the judge can stop visitation or order supervised visits, meaning that the parent can only visit with the child when another adult is present. The judge can modify, or change, an order granting or denying visitation rights whenever it is in the best interest of the child.



7. Can custody change between the parents?

Yes. Either parent can ask for a change of custody when it is in the best interest of the child and there is a substantial change, or major change, in circumstances from when the last custody order was put into effect.

Guardianship

There is a presumption that it is in the best interest of a child to live with his or her parents. However, in some cases, the parents are not able to take care of their child but someone else is willing to take care of the child. The procedure for legally taking responsibility for someone else's child is called guardianship over a minor. Minor is another word for someone under age eighteen.

1. What is a guardianship?

Having guardianship over someone means being legally responsible for that person. If an adult has guardianship over a child, then the adult is taking on the responsibility as a parent. The guardian can make all the decisions that a parent can. The guardian must take care of the child and provide a home, food, and clothing.

2. When does the guardianship end?

The guardianship ends when the parent asks the court for a hearing to show that he or she is willing and able to take care of his or her child again. Otherwise, the guardianship will end when the

child turns age eighteen.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Unfortunately, some Indiana youth are abused or neglected. It is everyone's duty to make sure that youth are protected from harm.

1. Who has to report child abuse or neglect?

Anyone who has reason to believe that someone under age eighteen is a victim of child abuse or neglect is required to make a report to the police or child protective services ("C.P.S."). C.P.S. is a unit of your county's office of Department of Child Services ("D.C.S."). C.P.S. investigates child abuse and neglect reports. It is a class B misdemeanor to not make a child abuse or neglect report when you know that abuse or neglect is happening. It's also a class A misdemeanor to make a false child abuse or neglect report. (See Chapter 6 for information on class A and class B misdemeanors.)

2. What happens if someone makes a report that I am being abused or neglected?

A C.P.S. investigator will visit you to make sure that you are safe. The investigator may visit your home, interview you, take pictures of you, or have a doctor examine you. The investigator will try to find out whether you were abused or neglected by gathering evidence. If there is credible, or believable, evidence that the

abuse or neglect occurred, the investigator will *substantiate* the report. However, if the investigator finds credible evidence that the abuse or neglect did not occur, the investigator will *unsubstantiate* the report.

3. Will I have to leave home if an abuse or neglect report is substantiated?

Sometimes, but not in every case is a child removed from the home with a substantiated child abuse or neglect report. Sometimes, the person who abuses the child is a parent, relative, or someone else living in the house. By law, C.P.S. has a duty to first use reasonable efforts to provide your family services so you can stay in your home and be safe. C.P.S. does not want to remove you from your home, but it does have a duty to remove you from your home if you cannot be safe there. If you are removed from your home, the judge will try to place you with one of your relatives. If you don't have a relative you can live with, you can live with a foster family. You cannot be put in a secure detention facility, which is a place where the doors are locked and you cannot leave. If you are placed in a facility that is not a foster home, it must be a facility that doesn't prevent you from leaving, or a non-secure facility. If at first you are safe at home, but later are not safe, C.P.S. or D.C.S. can ask the judge to put you into a safe home.



4. What is a foster parent or foster care?

If you are put into foster care, then you will live with a foster parent. A foster parent is someone who you are not related to. The foster parent will provide you with care and supervision.

5. How long will I stay away from my home?

After you are removed from your home, you will have a detention hearing in the juvenile court within 48 hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, of leaving your home. You and your parent will be told the time and date of the hearing. At the detention hearing, the

judge will decide whether it is safe for you to go home. Even if your parent is not the person who abused or neglected you, your parent has the responsibility to keep you safe from abuse by other people. The judge might order you to live away from your parent for a period of time if it is necessary for your protection, if you are unlikely to appear for other court hearings, if you have a reasonable basis for not wanting to go home, if your parent cannot be located or is unable to take you home, or if the court finds that you cannot be safe in the home even if your parent is offered services. You will return home when the judge feels you can be safe at home again. The amount of time this takes is different in every case, depending on the facts of the case.

6. What is an S.R.A.?

"S.R.A." stands for Service Referral Agreement. If C.P.S. substantiates a report of abuse or neglect, it may offer your parent a chance to participate in services to prevent abuse or neglect from happening in the future. An S.R.A. is a voluntary agreement between C.P.S. and your parent. Under the agreement, your parent agrees to participate in services to prevent further abuse and neglect. The services must be completed in six months. If your parent does not complete the services in six months, then the S.R.A. is cancelled and your parent will be added to the child abuse registry. C.P.S. may take further actions if necessary to protect you.

7. What is the Child Abuse Registry?

The Child Abuse Registry is a computer system that holds certain categories of substantiated abuse reports. The information is confidential, but police and D.C.S. members can access the information. You may have to sign a consent form for your employer to access the registry if you want a job dealing with children; your employer will make sure you are not on the Child Abuse Registry as an offender.

CHINS Proceedings

When youth are abused or neglected and are unlikely to receive protection from their parents, the D.C.S. attorney will bring a case in the juvenile court to require the parents to receive services, such as counseling or drug treatment, so the parents can protect their children. These cases are called CHINS cases. CHINS cases are not criminal cases against the people who abuse youth. CHINS cases are civil cases against the parents for not keeping their children safe.

1. What does CHINS mean?

A "Child In Need of Services," or CHINS, is someone under age eighteen who needs care, treatment, or rehabilitation that he or she is not receiving and is unlikely to receive without the judge taking action. Youth who are CHINS may also have a physical or mental condition caused by the parent or guardian refusing to give or not being able to give food,

clothing, shelter, medical care, education, or supervision. The youth may also have a physical or mental injury caused by something the parent did or didn't do or be the victim of a sex offense that the parent allowed to happen.

2. What rights do my parents have in CHINS proceedings?

Your parent is a party in the CHINS proceeding and has the right to receive notice of all hearings. Your parent also has the right to cross-examine, or question witnesses, to obtain evidence that the D.C.S. attorney has, and to introduce evidence on his or her own behalf. Your parent has the option of hiring an attorney, but only has the *right* to have an attorney if he or she does not have the money to pay for an attorney. If your parent meets the financial requirements to obtain an attorney, then it is up to the judge to decide whether to appoint an attorney for your parent.

3. What rights do I have in CHINS proceedings?

In a CHINS case, you are a party to the case, meaning that you can be present at all the hearings and receive notice of when and where the hearings will be held. However, you can be kept out of a hearing if a party shows there is a good reason for you to be kept out. At the hearings, you have the ability to cross-examine witnesses, or to ask them questions, obtain the evidence that the D.C.S. attorney and your parent have, and to introduce evi-

dence on your own behalf. You do not have the right to an attorney, although the judge can appoint an attorney or a CASA or GAL to represent you. (See below for information on CASAs and GALs.)

4. What is the P.I. in abuse and neglect cases?

An intake officer, or D.C.S. caseworker, will write a report called the P.I., or preliminary inquiry, if they believe a child should be a CHINS. The P.I. explains why the child should be a CHINS. Like in the juvenile delinquency system, the P.I. should include information on your background, current status, and school performance. The caseworker will send the P.I. to the D.C.S. attorney and will recommend whether to file a CHINS petition, informally adjust ("I.A.") the case, refer the case to another agency, or dismiss the case.

5. What is an I.A.?

"I.A." stands for Informal Adjustment, which is another agreement between the D.C.S. and your parent to receive services so that the abuse or neglect won't continue in the future. You, the child being abused or neglected, must consent to the I.A. However, an I.A. is different from a Service Referral Agreement because an I.A. involves the judge. The judge must agree for your parent and D.C.S. to enter into an I.A. An I.A. lasts for six months, but the judge can extend it for another six months. When the judge approves the I.A., the C.P.S. investigation

report will be entered into the child abuse registry. However, if your parent does not complete the services required by the I.A., he or she can be held in contempt of court, meaning the parent can be ordered to participate in the services or be sent to jail for contempt.

6. What happens if my parent needs help that he or she won't get?

Anytime C.P.S. determines that it's in your best interest for the juvenile court or criminal court to get involved to keep you safe from abuse or neglect, it will refer the case to the juvenile court. The D.C.S. attorney will ask the juvenile court judge permission to file a CHINS petition. The CHINS petition is a piece of paper that is given to the judge that has information about you, the person who abused you, and what abuse occurred. The judge will look at evidence contained in the P.I. to see if there is probable cause, or a good legal reason, that you should be a CHINS. If there is probable cause, then the judge will grant the D.C.S. permission to file a CHINS petition, and a CHINS case will start in juvenile court.

7. What happens at an initial hearing in a CHINS case?

If the judge allows the filing of the CHINS petition, an initial

hearing will be set. At an initial hearing, the judge will inform both you (if you are present) and your parent of the CHINS petition's allegations, or the facts about the abuse or neglect that C.P.S. believes to be true. You and your parent will also learn the dispositional alternatives, or the differ-





ent services and options for your care, the judge can have you or your parent do if the judge finds that you are a CHINS. The judge will inform your parent that if you are adjudicated a CHINS, your parent may be required to participate in a program of care, treatment or rehabilitation and may have to pay for the services. The judge will also tell your parent that he or she can argue against the allegations or his or her ability to pay for the services. The judge will ask your parent whether he or she admits, or agrees that the allegations are true, or denies, or thinks the allegations are false, that you are a child in need of services ("CHINS").

8. What is a CASA or GAL?

"CASA" stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate, and "GAL" stands for Guardian ad Litem. CASAs and GALs are adults, usually volunteers, who have been trained to tell the judge what is best for you while you are a CHINS. Sometimes CASAs and GALs are attorneys, but they do not act as attorneys in CHINS cases. They tell the judge what is best for you, not necessarily what you want, although they may report what you want to the judge. A CASA or GAL will talk to you, and other people who know you, to determine what is in your best interest to keep you safe. The judge will appoint a CASA or GAL in every case at the initial hearing.

9. What happens if my parent admits that I am a CHINS or denies that I am a CHINS?

If your parent admits the allegations, and if everyone agrees, then the judge may hold a dispositional hearing, to decide what needs to happen next, right after the initial hearing. Otherwise, the judge will hold the dispositional hearing at a later date. If your parent denies the allegations, then the judge will set a fact-finding hearing.

10. What is a fact-finding hearing?

A fact-finding hearing is a hearing where the D.C.S. attorney presents evidence to the judge that you were abused or neglected. The D.C.S. attorney must also prove to the judge you will not receive treatment or care unless the judge gets involved. Your parent will get to put on evidence that you are not a CHINS. If you want, you can put on your own evidence that you either are or are not a CHINS. If the judge finds that you *are* a CHINS, the judge will enter a decision, set a time for a dispositional hearing to decide what needs to happen next, and order a predispositional report. If the judge finds that you *are not* a CHINS, then the judge will dismiss your case and return you to your parents if you have been removed.

11. What is a predispositional report?

A predispositional report ("P.D.R.") is a report that an D.C.S. caseworker writes for the judge. The report contains

information about your need for services or treatment and where you should live during the CHINS case. The predispositional report also states what the D.C.S. caseworker thinks your parents need to do so you can be returned home safely. The report should recommend a placement plan that is the least restrictive and most appropriate care closest to your parent's home, least disruptive of family life, and provides reasonable participation for your parent. The D.C.S. caseworker may consult with people who have information about you, such as your doctor, teacher, or counselor. You or your parent or guardian, GAL, or CASA can file a separate predispositional report for the judge to consider.

12. What is the purpose of the dispositional hearing in a CHINS case?

The judge will hold a dispositional hearing to decide what services your parent needs to complete before you can go home and be safe. The court will consider the alternatives for your care and treatment, such as where you can live if you cannot live with your parent, what types of services or treatment your parent needs to do before you can be returned home safely, and how much money your parent is able to pay for the services.

13. What types of things can the judge order in the dispositional decree?

The judge can do several things if you are a CHINS. It might not seem fair

for you to have to do anything since you were the one being abused or neglected. However, the judge may order you to get services or treatment to help you recover and heal from your injuries, whether they are physical injuries or emotional injuries.

The judge can order that:

- An D.C.S. caseworker supervises you;
- You need to receive treatment at a facility;
- You should live away from your home (Remember, the judge must first consider whether you can live with family members such as a grandparent, aunt, uncle or an adult brother or sister.);
- You are partially or completely emancipated (This is unlikely, see above.);
- You and/or your parent receive family services such as counseling, drug treatment, or mental health treatment; and
- Someone, sometimes the person who abused or neglected you, not have any contact with you.

14. What can the judge order my parent to do?

The judge can order your parent to get help to be able to take care of you. The judge can also order your parent to provide certain care, treatment or supervision of you or order your parent to work with someone who is providing care for you. If your parent is in jail or prison, the judge can order your parent to participate in programs through or by the Department of Correction.

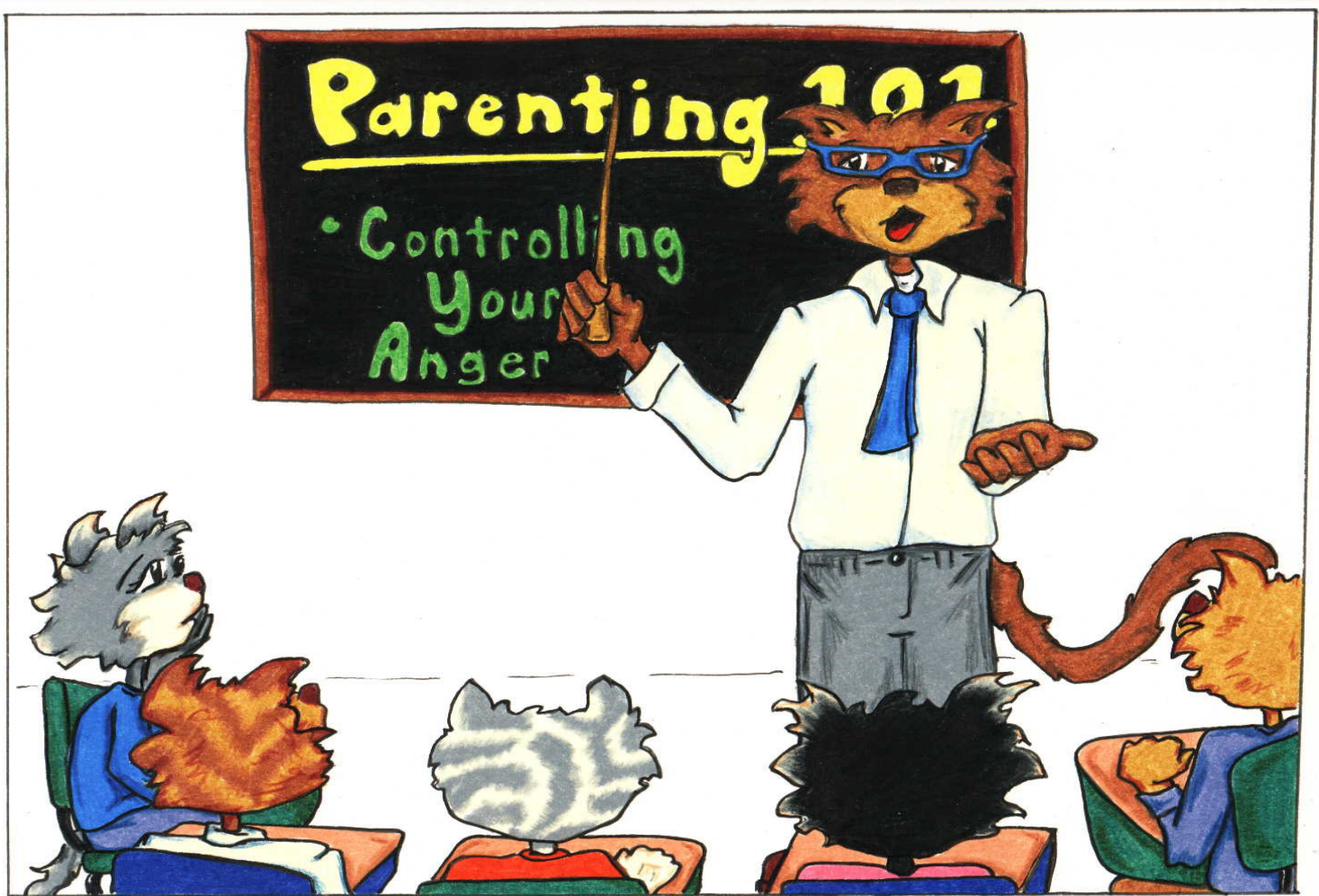
15. What is a case plan?

Within 60 days of your being removed from your home or within 60 days of the dispositional order, whichever comes first, the D.C.S. caseworker and your parent, guardian, or custodian will create a case plan. The case plan will include the D.C.S.'s plan for you while you are a CHINS and an estimated date to complete the plan. If you have to live away from your parents, the plan will discuss where you should live. The least restrictive, most family-like setting closest to your home is recommended. The case plan also describes family services recommended for you and your parent, the efforts D.C.S. has already made to provide family services to you, and the efforts that will be made to provide family services as ordered by the court in the dispositional decree.

16. How will the judge know whether my parent or I am following the dispositional decree?

The judge will hold a review hearing at least every six months, sometimes more often, after either the date from when you were removed from your parent's home or every six months after the date of the disposition, whichever date comes first.

At the review hearing, the judge will consider many things about you, such as how you are doing at the place where you are living and how you are doing with the services you are receiving for your care and treatment. If you are not living



with your parent, the judge will also look to see if there is a date in the future when you can return home. The judge will also look at whether your parent has participated in or completed the services ordered at the dispositional hearing, visited you, and cooperated with the D.C.S. caseworker.

17. What is a permanency plan?

A permanency plan is the plan your D.C.S. caseworker recommends to the judge about where you should live and who should take care of you until you are age eighteen. Some options the D.C.S.

can recommend are returning you to your parent's home, starting the procedure to terminate your parents' parental rights, placing you with a family so that you can be adopted or so someone can become your guardian, or placing you in another living arrangement such as an independent living program. An independent living program will teach you life skills to help you live on your own. The permanency plan must also include a time schedule for completing the permanency plan and what should happen to you (where you will live and who will take care of you) until the permanency plan can be completed.

18. When are permanency hearings held?

The judge will hold a permanency hearing every twelve months after the date you were removed from your parent's home or after the date of the disposition, whichever date comes first. At the permanency hearing, the judge will look at whether the dispositional decree should be modified, or changed. The judge will consider whether the permanency plan already in place should be changed and whether the court should continue to have jurisdiction over your case. The judge may consider and approve a new permanency plan.

Termination of Parent-Child Relationship

Youth need to be able to count on their parents to care for them and keep them safe. When youth are CHINS and have lived away from their parents for a long period of time because their parents can't provide a safe home, the D.C.S. will try to find another way to provide a permanent, safe home for the youth. In order for the new home to be permanent, sometimes the legal relationship between the youth and their birth parents must end.

1. What is "termination of parental rights"?

Parents cannot give up their parental rights by themselves. An adoption agency or the D.C.S. must agree that it is in your best interests to terminate your

parents' legal rights to have custody and to take care of you. If you are a CHINS, there are some cases when it is in your best interest for your parent or parents to give up their parental rights, such as when your parents are unwilling to get help or change their abusive or neglectful behavior. The D.C.S. attorney, prosecutor, or your CASA or GAL may ask the court to terminate the parent-child relationship so that another person, such as another family member or a foster parent, can adopt you and give you a permanent, safe home.

If your parents do not want to give up their parental rights, then the judge must hold a hearing to decide if terminating your parents' rights is allowed under the law and is best for you. At that hearing, the D.C.S. attorney must give the judge clear and convincing evidence:

- That you have been removed from your home for six months under a dispositional decree or that you have been removed from your home because your parent has been convicted of a very serious crime such as murder of a child or been removed from your parent and have been under the supervision of DCS or probation for at least 15 out of the last 22 months;
- There is a reasonable probability that the conditions leading to your removal are not likely to get better or that the parent-child relationship poses a threat to your well-being; or that you have been found to be a CHINS on two separate occasions;

- That termination is in your best interest; and
- That there is a satisfactory plan for your care and treatment.

The judge will hold a final hearing to determine whether the D.C.S. proves by clear and convincing evidence that your parents' right to raise you, have custody of you, and take care of you should be legally ended or terminated. If the D.C.S. shows the judge enough evidence, your parents' parental rights are terminated. This means that your parent is no longer able to have you live with him or her or to make any decisions about you.

2. Does the parent in a termination of parental rights case get to have an attorney?

Yes. A parent in a termination of parental rights case does have the right to be represented by an attorney, even if they cannot afford one. If your parent can't afford to hire an attorney, a public defender will be appointed to represent him or her.

3. Will I have a CASA or a GAL in a termination of parental rights case?

If your parent objects to having his or her parental rights terminated, the judge must appoint either a CASA or a GAL for you.

4. What does adoption mean?

Adoption is the legal process in which a new parent-child relationship is legally created. The adoptive parent becomes legally responsible for taking care of you and keeping you safe from harm until you are an adult.

5. If I am adopted, what kind of contact will I have with my birth parents?

At the time the judge enters the



adoption order, the judge may grant contact privileges between you and your birth parents if your birth parents either consented to the adoption or if they voluntarily terminated their parental rights. In deciding whether to grant contact with your birth parents after your adoption, the judge will look to see if the contact is in your best interest. The judge will take into consideration:

- If you are over age two and have significant emotional attachment to your birth parents;
- If your adoptive parents agree with the contact;
- If your adoptive parents and your birth parents enter into a contact agreement that is filed with the court;
- If your GAL or CASA agrees to the contact; and
- If you are age twelve or older and agree to the contact.

6. What type of contact will I have with my siblings (brothers and sisters)?

At the time the judge enters the adoption order, the judge may order your adoptive parents to provide for specific contact between you and your siblings to take place after the adoption if the judge believes the contact would be in your best interest and if each adoptive parent consents to the court's order for contact.

Chapter 8 Sources

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1. When can I get married?
I.C. 31-11-1-4; I.C. 31-11-1-5

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I.C. 31-34-20-6; I.C. 31-37-19-27
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I.C. 16-37-2-2.1; I.C. 31-14-6-1
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www.in.gov/dcs/support/
4. What is child support?
I.C. 31-14-10-1; I.C. 31-14-11-2;
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I.C. 31-14-13-1; I.C. 31-14-13-2
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I.C. 31-14-10-1; I.C. 31-14-14-1; I.C. 31-14-14-2; I.C. 31-17-4-2
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I.C. 29-3-12-1

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2. What rights do my parents have in CHINS proceedings?
I.C. 31-32-2-3; I.C. 31-34-9-7; I.C. 34-10-1-1; I.C. 34-10-1-2; I.C. 31-32-4-3.
3. What rights do I have in CHINS proceedings?
I.C. 31-32-2-1; I.C. 31-32-6-8; I.C. 31-32-2-1; I.C. 31-34-9-7; I.C. 31-32-4-2(b)
4. What is the P.I. in abuse and neglect cases?
I.C. 31-34-7-1; I.C. 31-34-7-2
5. What is an I.A.?
I.C. 31-34-8-1—I.C. 31-34-8-6
6. What happens if my parent needs help that he or she won't get?
I.C. 31-33-14-1; I.C. 31-34-9-3; I.C. 31-34-9-2
7. What happens at an initial hearing in a CHINS case?
I.C. 31-34-10-4 – I.C. 31-34-10-7
8. What is a CASA or GAL?
I.C. 31-34-10-3; I.C. 31-9-2-28; I.C. 31-9-2-50
9. What happens if my parent admits that I am a CHINS or denies that I am a CHINS?
I.C. 31-34-10-8; I.C. 31-34-10-9
10. What is a fact-finding hearing?
I.C. 31-34-11-1; I.C. 31-34-11-2; I.C. 31-34-11-3
11. What is a predispositional report?
I.C. 31-34-18-4; I.C. 31-34-18-1.1
12. What is the purpose of the dispositional hearing in a CHINS case?
I.C. 31-34-19-1
13. What types of things can the judge order in the

dispositional decree?

I.C. 31-34-20-1

14. What can the judge order my parent to do?

I.C. 31-34-20-3

15. What is a case plan?

I.C. 31-34-15-2; I.C. 31-34-15-4

16. How will the judge know whether my parent or I am following the dispositional decree?

I.C. 31-34-21-5; I.C. 31-34-21-2

17. What is a permanency plan?

I.C. 31-34-21-7.5

18. When are permanency hearings held?

I.C. 31-34-21-7

2. Does the parent in a termination of parental rights case get to have an attorney?

I.C. 31-32-4-3

3. Will I have a CASA or a GAL in a termination of parental rights case?

I.C. 31-35-2-7

4. What does adoption mean?

I.C. 31-9-2-3; I.C. 31-19-15-1

5. If I am adopted, what kind of contact will I have with my birth parents?

I.C. 31-19-16-1; I.C. 31-19-16-2

6. What type of contact will I have with my siblings (brothers and sisters)?

I.C. 31-19-16.5-1

Termination of Parent-Child Relationship

1. What is "termination of parental rights"?

I.C. 31-35-1-4; I.C. 31-35-2-4; I.C. 31-34-12-2

