



National Advocates  
for Pregnant Women

N A P W

## Direct Services Resources for Parents Seeking Help in Navigating the Child Welfare System

If you are dealing with Child Protective Services and need help in the form of legal aid, individual support, or information on how the system works in your area, use this list to find resources in your state or based on your concern. Find your state, read the description of the organization, and, if it provides the types of services that you're looking for, contact them by phone or e-mail. This is not a comprehensive list; there may be legal services or other support services that we are not aware of. If there is no resource guide listed for your state, these [state by state resources](#) and this [general guide to the child welfare system](#) may be helpful.

*Note: Guides marked with a (\*) were produced the Child Protective Services agency or the courts in your state. Thus, it is important to keep in mind that, while they do provide important and useful information, they often are not written with a parent advocacy focus, but rather just outline how the system is supposed to work. Guides marked with (+) were produced by organizations that have a parent advocacy focus (some were even written with the input of parents who have been through the system).*

### National

- **Every Mother is a Working Mother**
  - Description: Every Mother is a Working Mother advocates against unjust removals of children to the child welfare system. They take individual cases from around the country, and their websites provide a “know your rights” information sheet.
  - Website: <http://www.everymothernetwork.net/>
  - Phone: 323-276-9833
  - E-mail: [la@allwomenscount.net](mailto:la@allwomenscount.net)
  
- **ICWA Law Center**
  - Description: The ICWA Law Center provides legal services and advocacy to Indian families impacted by the child protection system. Based out of Minnesota but serving families nationwide.
  - Website: <http://www.icwlc.org/>
  - Phone: 612-879-9165
  - E-mail: [info@icwlc.org](mailto:info@icwlc.org)

- **National Center for Lesbian Rights**

- Description: We are a non-profit, public interest law firm that litigates precedent-setting cases at the trial and appellate court levels; advocates for equitable public policies affecting the LGBTQ community; provides free legal assistance to LGBTQ people and their legal advocates; and conducts community education on LGBTQ issues.
- Website: <http://www.nclrights.org/get-help/>
- Phone: 800.528.6257, 415.392.6257

- **Parents Anonymous® Inc.**

- Description: Parents Anonymous® Program is an evidence-based family strengthening program (<https://parentsanonymous.org/research/>) utilizing mutual support (the giving and getting of help), parent leadership (seeking solutions and becoming empowered), and shared leadership® (working together) to achieve personal growth, improve family functioning and achieve parental resilience.
- Website: <http://www.parentsanonymous.org/>
- Phone: (1-855-427-2736
- E-mail form: <https://parentsanonymous.org/contact/>

- **The Family Law and Cannabis Alliance**

- Description: The Family Law and Cannabis Alliance provides fact sheets on drug laws, information on dealing with CPS, and state profiles in the resources section of their website.
- Website: <http://fcalliance.org>

- **A Family's Guide to the Child Welfare System**

- <https://www.nicwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/A-Familys-Guide-to-the-Child-Welfare-System.pdf>

## Alaska

- **Alaska Public Defender Agency**

- Description: Represents parents against child welfare/dependency allegations
- Website: <http://doa.alaska.gov/pda/Divisions/Civil/ParentAdvocacy.html>
- Phone Number: (907) 334-2580
- \* [Parent's Rights: What You Need to Know about a Child Protection Initial Assessment](#)
  - The agency's outline of your rights as a parent facing a report of maltreatment and answers to common questions about a child protection initial assessment.

## Arizona

- **Maricopa County Legal Defender's Office**

- Description: The mission of Office of the Public Defender is to provide quality legal representation to indigent individuals assigned to us by the court so that the fundamental legal rights of each member of the community are safeguarded.
- Website: <https://www.maricopa.gov/558/Public-Defender>
- Phone Number: 602-506-7711
  
- E-mail: [pdinfo@maricopa.gov](mailto:pdinfo@maricopa.gov)

- \* [Arizona's Department of Child Safety Description of Parent Rights](#)

- The department's information for parents facing an investigation

## Arkansas

- **Arkansas Parent Counsel Program**

- Description: Lawyers for parents facing child welfare allegations
- Website: <https://portal.arkansas.gov/agency/commission-for-parent-counsel/>
- Phone Number: (501) 683-1882
  
- E-mail: [tori.foreman@arkansas.gov](mailto:tori.foreman@arkansas.gov)

- \* [What Happens When Your Child and Family Are Involved with DCFS?](#)

- The Department's explanation of what happens when you and your child come into contact with DCFS.

## California

- **Dependency Legal Services**

- Description: Dependency Legal Services aims to provide a multi-disciplinary team of professionals to families who are involved with the child welfare system in order to achieve the most successful outcomes.
- Website: <http://www.dependencyls.com/>
- Phone Numbers:
  - Stanislaus County: 209-499-8555
  - Sonoma County: 707-526-3737
  - Mendocino County: 707-462-5506
  - Marin County: 415-858-2704
  
- E-mail: [info@dependencyls.com](mailto:info@dependencyls.com)

- **East Bay Family Defenders**

- Description: Our mission is to keep families together and minimize the time children spend in foster care.
  - Website: <https://eastbayfamilydefenders.org/>
  - Phone Numbers: (510) 667-1075
- **Dependency Advocacy Center of San Jose**
  - Description: Representing parents in Santa Clara County to keep families together.
  - Website: <https://www.sccdac.org/>
  - Phone Numbers: 408-995-0714
- **Los Angeles Dependency Lawyers, Inc.**
  - Description: Nonprofit who serve as appointed lawyers for parents in dependency cases in LA County. We are committed to keeping families together. Our goal is to always advocate for our client and our client's right to retain or regain custody of his or her child.
  - Website: <https://www.ladlinc.org/>
  - Phone Numbers: (323) 262-0472
- **A Better Way**
  - Description: A Better Way provides two programs: (1) the Parent Engagement Program which matches parents with Parent Advocates who provide education, advocacy, and support and (2) the Peer Parent Program which provides peer-to-peer mentoring services for San Francisco families involved with the Child Protective Services or families with children involved with the Juvenile Probation Department.
  - Website: <https://www.abetterwayinc.net/>
  - Phone Number: 510-601-0203
  - E-mail: [mail@abetterwayinc.net](mailto:mail@abetterwayinc.net)
- \* [The Juvenile Dependency Court and You: A Guide for Parents](#)
  - The court's guide to help parents who are navigating the child welfare system, including the personal story and advice of a woman who was able to be reunified with her children after they were removed.

## **Colorado**

- **The Elephant Circle**
  - Description: The Elephant Circle can provide legal advice for parents (as well as their attorneys and other advocates) as well as representation for those facing abuse and neglect investigations, findings, and court proceedings.
  - Website: <http://elephantcircle.net/>
  - Phone: Contact Indra Lusero at 720-504-8206

- E-mail: Contact Indra Lusero at [indra@elephantcircle.org](mailto:indra@elephantcircle.org)
- **Colorado Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel**
  - Description: The Colorado Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel provides effective legal advocates for indigent parents in child welfare proceedings.
  - Website: <https://coloradoorpc.org/>
  - Phone: 303.731.8770
  - E-mail: [admin@coloradoorpc.org](mailto:admin@coloradoorpc.org)
- **Disabled Parents Rights**
  - Description: Disabled Parents Rights is a small organization dedicated to combating discrimination that impacts parenting for parents with disabilities. We provide direct representation, advocacy, and technical assistance to disabled parents, as well as their advocates and attorneys, particularly in Colorado.
  - Website: <http://www.disabledparentrights.org/>
  - Phone: (970) 460-6765
  - E-mail: [info@disabledparentrights.org](mailto:info@disabledparentrights.org)

### **Connecticut**

- \* [A Parent's Right to Know: Child Protective Services and Your Family](#)
  - The Department's answers to common questions and an outline of your rights as a parent dealing with a DCF investigation.

### **D.C. (Washington, D.C.)**

- \* [When Child Welfare Investigates Your Family: Information for Parents and Caregivers](#)
  - The Agency's fact sheet describing what to expect if you are being investigated by the DC Child and Family Services Agency.

### **Delaware**

- \* [Division of Family Services: Parent Handbook](#)
  - The agency's parent handbook, intended to provide you with an overview of DFS services and answers to common questions.

### **Florida**

- \* [A Parent's Guide to Juvenile Dependency Court](#)
  - The court's answers to common questions and other important information about dependency cases with the Department of Children and Families.

### **Hawaii**

- \* [A Guide to Child Welfare Services](#)
  - The department's answers to common questions and other important information about Child Welfare Services.

## Illinois

- **Law Office of the Public Defender of Cook County, Civil Division**
  - Description: represents parents when the State files allegations of abuse, neglect or dependency in relation to their children
  - Website: <https://www.cookcountypublicdefender.org/>
  - Phone Number: (312) 433-7046
- **Family Defense Center**
  - Description: The Family Defense Center provides legal services for individuals who need representation in DCFS administrative hearings and investigations in Illinois. In addition, they may provide you with referrals to other legal support groups.
  - Website: <http://www.familydefensecenter.net/>
  - E-mail: [fdc@familydefensecenter.org](mailto:fdc@familydefensecenter.org)
  - Phone Number: 312-251-9800 ext. 18
- **Families Organizing for Child Welfare Justice, Chicago, IL**
  - Description: FOCWJ exists to train, educate, and organize families on child welfare reform. FOCWJ envisions a world where no person will ever face the injustice of wrongful separation from his or her child. To that end, FOCWJ engages in mentoring, education, parent advocacy, coalition building, and grassroots advocacy.
  - Website: <https://www.focwj.org>
  - E-mail: [info@focwj.org](mailto:info@focwj.org)
  - Phone Number: (312) 619-6855
- **CARPLS Legal Aid Hotline**
  - Description: The CARPLS Legal Aid Hotline can provide low-income people in Cook County with extensive referrals, information and answers to their questions, and legal advice about their child welfare case.
  - Website: <https://www.carpls.org/>
  - Hotline Phone Number: 312-738-9200
- + [Understanding and Responding to Department of Children and Family Services' Abuse and Neglect Investigations in Illinois: A Basic Guide for Illinois Parents and Other Caregivers](#)

- General information about the child abuse and neglect system in Illinois and some guidance for parents and other caregivers when they are involved in such investigations, from The Family Defense Center, contact information above.

## Iowa

- **\*Parent Partners**
  - Description: Parent Partners (people who have been through DHS and made it through the system) mentor and support parents have had their children taken away and are currently going through the system. \*\*NOTE, this is through the Department itself.
  - Website: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/child-welfare/ParentPartner/Families>
  - E-mail: Contact Sarah Persons at [SaraP@cfiowa.org](mailto:SaraP@cfiowa.org)
  - Phone number: Contact Sarah Persons at 641-799-9081
- \* [A Handbook on Juvenile Court for Parents](#)
  - The court's handbook to help understand what is likely to happen in Juvenile Court and who the people are that may be involved.

## Kansas

- **Kansas Family Advisory Network (KFAN)**
  - Description: KFAN supports and teaches families about the court system and how it works by doing everything it can to provide birth/kinship parents with all of the information that is typically given to foster/adoptive parents in the child welfare system.
  - Website: <http://www.kfan.org/>
  - Phone Number: 1-800-969-5764 (toll-free), 316-529-9137, or 529-9138
  - E-mail: [kfaninfo@gmail.com](mailto:kfaninfo@gmail.com)
- \* [Kansas Child Protective Services: What You Need to Know about Investigations of Child Abuse or Neglect](#)
  - The department's brochure on what you need to know about investigations of child abuse/neglect.

## Kentucky

- \* [When Your Child is Removed from Your Care: Guide for Parents](#)
  - The department's guide gives you information on your rights and responsibilities as a parent and explains what you can expect from CHFS while your child is being cared for by a relative or by foster parents.

## Maine

- \* [A Guide to Child Protective Services](#)
  - The department's Information and answers to common questions about Child Protective Services.

## **Massachusetts**

- **Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services: Children and Family Law Division**
  - Description: public defender for parents in child welfare cases
  - Website: <https://www.publiccounsel.net/cafl/>
  - Phone Number: (617) 482-6212
- **Freitas & Freitas, LLP**
  - Description: Private law firm representing parents in child welfare cases and school advocacy, primarily in Essex and Middlesex counties.
  - Website: <http://freitas-law.com/index.html>
  - Phone Number: (978) 397-6964
  - Email: [info@freitas-law.com](mailto:info@freitas-law.com)
- **Law Office of Andrew Hoffman**
  - Description: Former public defender for parents in child welfare cases, now private attorney based in Boston.
  - Website: <http://www.andrewhoffmanesq.com/>
  - Phone Number: **617-898-0750**
  - Email: [hoffmanlaw1@gmail.com](mailto:hoffmanlaw1@gmail.com)
- + [You Are Not Alone: An Empowering Guide for Parents Whose Children Are In DCF Foster Care](#)
  - This guide, written by and for parents, answers common questions and helps you make a plan for how to deal with DCF.
- \* [A Family's Guide to Protective Services for Children](#)
  - The department's information and answers to common questions about being contacted by the Department of Children and Families.

## **Michigan**

- **Detroit Center for Family Advocacy**



- Description: The Detroit Center for Family Advocacy (CFA) provides legal advocacy and social work services to low-income families in Wayne County to prevent the unnecessary placement and prolonged stay of children in foster care.
  - Website: <https://www.law.umich.edu/centersandprograms/pcl/cfa/Pages/default.aspx>
  - Phone Number: 313-875-4233
  - E-mail: [lawdetroitcfa@umich.edu](mailto:lawdetroitcfa@umich.edu)
- **Detroit Parent Network**
    - Description: The Detroit Parent Network provides parenting classes, support groups, and parent leadership classes.
    - Website: <http://www.detroitparentnetwork.org/>
    - Phone Number: 313-832-0617
    - E-mail: [emailus@detroitparentnetwork.org](mailto:emailus@detroitparentnetwork.org)
- **Child Advocacy Law Clinic at University of Michigan**
    - Description: The Child Advocacy Law Clinic represents parents, children, foster parents, and relatives involved in the foster-care system. We primarily practice in Washtenaw and Genesee counties. We do not charge for our services.
    - Website: <https://www.law.umich.edu/clinical/calcl/Pages/default.aspx#1>
    - Phone Number: 734.763.5000
  - \* [A Parent's Guide to Working with Child Protective Services](#)
    - The agency's guide to help you understand and prepare for working with CPS.

## **Minnesota**

- **Hennepin County Public Defender**
  - Description: We represent parents and children involved in child protection cases.
  - Website: <https://www.hennepinpublicdefender.org/>
  - Phone Number: 612-348-7530
- **Blahnik, Prchal & Stoll, PLLC**
  - Description: Prior Lake and South Metro area family lawyers.
  - Website: <https://www.bpslawoffice.com/>
- \* [Family Guide to Child Protection](#)
  - The department's guide to help understand what county social services staff does when a report of child abuse or neglect is accepted.

## Montana

- \* [What Happens Next?: A Guide to the Child and Family Services Division \(CFSD\) Child Protective Services \(CPS\)](#)
  - The agency's guide is meant to help you understand what happens during a Child and Family Services Division assessment and investigation.

## Nebraska

- **The Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)**
  - Description: The Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) provides information and support to families to help them navigate systems that impact their children and their family, including education, health, mental health, human services, disability, child welfare, child care, and others.
  - Website: [www.spanadvocacy.org](http://www.spanadvocacy.org)
  - Phone Number: 800-654-SPAN (7726)
- **Fye Law Office**
  - Description: Law firm representing parents in child custody, support, divorce, etc. but not child welfare cases.
  - Website: <https://www.fyelaw.com/>
  - Phone Number: (402) 519 – 4061 Email: [fyelaw@gmail.com](mailto:fyelaw@gmail.com)

## Nevada

- \* [Parents Guide to Child Protective Services \(CPS\)](#)
  - The department's brochure with information and answers to common questions about what to expect if you are involved in a CPS case.

## New Jersey

- **The Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)**
  - Description: The Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) provides information and support to families to help them navigate systems that impact their children and their family, including education, health, mental health, human services, disability, child welfare, child care, and others.
  - Website: [www.spanadvocacy.org](http://www.spanadvocacy.org)
- **NJ Office of the Public Defender**
  - Description: Located within the NJ Office of Public Defender, the Office of Parental Representation (OPR) provides legal representation to a parent or legal guardian in a Family Court case when the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP, formerly DYFS) files a complaint against

him or her alleging neglect or abuse of a child or a complaint against him or her seeking to terminate his or her right to custody of, or contact with, a child.

- Website: <https://www.nj.gov/defender/structure/opr/>
- Phone Number: (609) 292-7087
- Email: [thedefenders@opd.nj.gov](mailto:thedefenders@opd.nj.gov)

- **Legal Services of New Jersey**

- Description: LSNJ coordinates the statewide Legal Services system, which provides free legal assistance to low-income New Jerseyans for their civil legal problems. Through its work, LSNJ strives to secure substantive and procedural justice for those living in poverty.
- Website: <https://www.lsnj.org/>
- Phone Number: (732) 572-9100

- \* Parents' Handbook

- The department's handbook was written to explain the role of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P) workers and other staff who work together to serve you and your family.

## New Mexico

- \* [A Handbook for Parents and Guardians in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases: What You Need to Know About the People Helping You With Your Case](#)
  - The department and court's Information and answers to common questions about being involved in a child abuse or neglect case.

## New York

- **Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)**

- Description: LIFT has Education and Information Sites as well as Family Legal Centers in the family courts of all five boroughs where they provide answers to legal questions and help parents navigate the courts. In addition, LIFT can answer your questions through their hotline or via e-mail.
- Website: <http://www.liftonline.org/>
- Hotline Phone Number: 212-343-1122
- E-mail: [info@LIFTonline.org](mailto:info@LIFTonline.org)

- **Bronx Defenders: Family Defense Practice**

- Description: The Bronx Defenders is the first institutional provider in the Bronx established to keep families together and to represent and defend parents fighting against the painful and unnecessary removal of their children. Over the

last 15 years, we have grown to represent parents in 85% of the child welfare investigation cases in the Bronx Family Court system.

- Website: <https://www.bronxdefenders.org/our-work/family-defense-practice/>
  - Hotline Phone Number:
    - Community Intake Advocates: 718-838-7878
    - 24/7 Legal Emergency hotline: 347-778-1266
  - E-mail: [Info@bronxdefenders.org](mailto:Info@bronxdefenders.org)
- Note from Bronx Defenders: If the police or ACS has contacted you and you do not have a lawyer, immediately call our legal emergency hotline at 347-778-1266 or come to our office at 360 161st Street, Bronx, New York.

- **Brooklyn Defender Services Family Defense Project**

- Description: BDS' Family Defense Practice (FDP) is the primary provider of legal representation to parents in child welfare cases in Brooklyn Family Court. The mission of FDP is to protect the right to family integrity of low- income families, primarily families of color who are disproportionately affected by the child welfare system.
- Website: <http://bds.org/practice/family-defense/>
- Hotline Phone Number: (718) 254-0700 E-mail: [info@bds.org](mailto:info@bds.org)

- **Center for Family Representation**

- Description: The Center for Family Representation has every client work with a team of professionals that includes a lawyer; social worker; and parent advocate, a trained professional who has firsthand experience with the child welfare system and has been successfully reunited with his or her children.
- Website: <http://www.cfrny.org/>
- Phone Number: 212-691-0950
- E-mail: [info@cfrny.org](mailto:info@cfrny.org)

- **Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem**

- Description: NDS offers full representation on Family Court cases brought by the New York City Administration for Children's Service (ACS) alleging abuse or neglect against a parent. It keeps families together and communities intact.
- Website: <https://www.neighborhooddefender.org/>
- Phone Number: 212-876-5500

- **JMac for Families**

- Description: Strategic, policy advocacy to make the system works for families or help families navigate the system.
- Social Media: [@JMacforFamilies](#)

- **Lansner & Kubitschek, New York, NY**

- Description: Lansner & Kubitschek represents clients in both traditional and extraordinary family law situations.
- Website: <https://www.lanskub.com/practiceareas/family-law/>
- Phone Number: 212.349.0900
- Email: [lanskub@lanskub.com](mailto:lanskub@lanskub.com)
- + [The Survival Guide to the NYC Child Welfare System: A Workbook for Parents by Parents](#)
  - This is a thorough survival guide to the NYC Child Welfare System, written by and for parents. It explains what happens if you are being prosecuted for abusing or neglecting your children.

### **North Carolina**

- \* [Understanding Foster Care: A Handbook for Parents](#)
  - The department's handbook explains what you might expect if your child is about to go into foster care.

### **North Dakota**

- \* [What Happens Next?: A Guide to the North Dakota Child Protection Services](#)
  - The department's guide with information and answers to common questions about North Dakota Child Protection Services.

### **Oklahoma**

- \* [A Parent's Guide to Working with Child Welfare](#)
  - The department's guide to the child welfare system and answers to common questions.

### **Oregon**

- **Oregon Office of Public Defense Services**
  - Description: Public Defenders representing parents against child welfare cases.
  - Website: <https://www.oregon.gov/opds/provider/Pages/pcrp.aspx>
  - Phone Number: 503.378.2700

- **Parents Anonymous and Parent Mentor Group of Oregon (Morrison Child and Family Services)**
  - Description: Parents Anonymous of Oregon is an evidenced-based family strengthening program that serves as a culturally responsive and community-based intervention and prevention program, and it offers a safe environment for parents seeking support. The Parent Mentor Program provides peer mentoring to parents impacted by addiction and involved with the child welfare system.
  - Website: [http://www.morrisonkids.org/parents+anonymous\\_of+oregon+\\_parent+mentor+program.aspx](http://www.morrisonkids.org/parents+anonymous_of+oregon+_parent+mentor+program.aspx)
  - Phone Number: 503-258-4565
- **Family Nurturing Center**
  - Description: The Family Nurturing Center provides crisis support, emergency financial support, monthly diapers, a clothing closet, parenting groups, and referrals to other agencies. While there is a Parent Mentor Program, unfortunately, you may not self-refer into it, you must be referred by DHS.
  - Website: <http://familynurturingcenter.org/>
  - Phone Numbers:
    - Jackson County: 541-779-5242
    - Josephine County: 541-295-8128
  - E-mail: [info@familynurturingcenter.org](mailto:info@familynurturingcenter.org)

## Pennsylvania

- **Juvenile Court Project Parent Advocates**
  - Description: The Juvenile Court Project advocates for the interests and legal rights of indigent parents whose children are the subjects of Juvenile Court dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings in Allegheny County.
  - Website: <http://www.acbparentadvocates.org/index.html>
  - Phone Number: 412-391-4467
- **Every Mother is a Working Mother**
  - Description: Every Mother is a Working Mother advocates against unjust removals of children to the child welfare system. They will take individual cases from around the country, and their websites provide a “know your rights” information sheet. See special Philadelphia contact.
  - Website: <http://www.everymothernetwork.net/>
  - phone number: 215-848-1120
  - Email: [philly@allwomenscount.net](mailto:philly@allwomenscount.net)
- **Community Legal Services of Philadelphia** (only take Philadelphia clients)

- Description: The Community Legal Services of Philadelphia provides a broad range of services, mainly for low-income Philadelphia residents. This includes legal representation for parents navigating the child welfare system. CLS has also put together a video and a written guide for parents navigating the child welfare system in Pennsylvania, immediately below, as well as guides for incarcerated parents and teen parents.
  - Website: <https://clsphila.org/about-cls>
  - Phone Number: 215-981-3765
- **Mark D. Freeman, Esq.**
    - Description: Mark D. Freeman, Esq. is a private attorney who represents parents and caretakers in family and criminal court who have been falsely accused of child abuse. He also pursues related civil rights lawsuits.
    - Website: <https://www.shakenbabydefense.com/>
    - Phone Number: 1-877-325-0437
  - + [Parent to Parent: A Guide to Navigating Philadelphia's Child Welfare System](#)
    - This is a guide for parents, detailing the Pennsylvania dependency process.
  - + [A Parent's Guide to Understanding the Pennsylvania Dependency Process \(Video\)](#)
    - This video is a guide to navigating the Pennsylvania dependency process.

### South Carolina

- + [Child Abuse, Child Neglect: What Parents Should Know If They Are Investigated](#)
  - This is a resource that provides parents facing a child abuse or neglect investigation with information and answers to common questions.

### South Dakota

- \* [South Dakota Parents' Guide to Foster Care](#)
  - The department's guide provides an introduction to why your child is in foster care, what the juvenile court is, your rights as a parent, and what you can do to get your child back.

### Tennessee

- \* [The Tennessee Handbook for Parents and Guardians in Child Neglect and Abuse Cases](#)
  - The court's handbook is meant to help parents facing a child abuse or neglect case understand what will happen.

## Texas

- **Parent Guidance Center**
  - Description: The Parent Guidance Center provides parent advocates or parental rights consultants for individuals navigating Child Protective Services. In addition, their website has an extensive parent resource guide.
  - Website: <http://parentguidancecenter.org/>
  - E-mail: [info@parentguidancecenter.org](mailto:info@parentguidancecenter.org)
- + Parent Resource Guide
  - This handbook is designed to help parents understand the Texas child welfare system, their role and responsibilities when involved in a Child Protective Services case, and the roles and responsibilities of others.

## Vermont

- **Vermont Parent Representation Center**
  - Description: Although the Vermont Parent Representation Center is shifting towards a policy initiative, and away from direct client representation, effective August 2016, they will continue to provide over the phone advice to parents losing children to state custody. They will try to raise the funds to continue to, at some point in the future, take on clients again.
  - Website: <http://vtprc.org/>
  - Phone Number: 802-540-0200
- \* Child Safety Interventions: A Guide to Investigations and Assessments
  - The department's brochure is meant to help parents understand what to expect when faced with the Family Services Division.
- \* Your Child is in DCF Custody: What You Need to Know
  - The department's brochure explains your rights and what to expect if your child has been taken into DCF custody.

## Virginia

- \* Child Protective Services: A Guide to Family Assessment
  - The purpose of these brochures is to help you understand the Child Protective Services (CPS) reporting and response process.



## Washington (state)

- **Washington State Parent Ally Committee**
  - Description: The Washington State Parent Ally Committee consists of parent allies who have navigated the child welfare system and advocate for birth parents. Additionally they provide advocacy support for the Parents for Parents program, a mentorship program that educates parents about dependency process and provides ongoing support throughout parents' dependency cases.
  - Website: <http://www.washingtonstatepac.org/>
  - Phone Number: 206-695-3238
  - E-mail: Fill out the contact form here: <http://www.washingtonstatepac.org/contact-us.html>
  
- **CLEAR (Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral) Hotline**
  - Description: The CLEAR Hotline can help you better understand your CPS case, give you information and advice on some issues, and provide you with appropriate referrals for issues CLEAR does not assist with.
  - Website: <https://nwjustice.org/clear-hotline>
  - Hotline Phone Number: 1-888-201-1014
  
- **King County Office of Public Defense (Seattle)**
  - Description: The Department of Public Defense (DPD) provides legal representation to adults and juveniles who have been charged with a crime and cannot afford an attorney, as well as people facing civil commitment, parents who could lose their children in a dependency action, and people seeking to vacate a past felony or misdemeanor conviction. DPD works to address racial disproportionality in the criminal legal system, the collateral consequences of system involvement, and other structural and systemic issues that undermine the rights of our clients.
  - Website: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/public-defense.aspx>
  - Phone Number: 206-296-7662
  - E-mail Form: <https://blue.kingcounty.gov/about/contact/>
  
- **Parent Representation Program at the Washington State Office of Public Defense**
  - Description: OPD contracts with attorneys to represent indigent parents, custodians, and legal guardians involved in child dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings in 31 of Washington's counties.
  - Website: <http://www.opd.wa.gov/index.php/program/parents-representation>
  - Phone Number: 360-586-3164 or 1-800-414-6064 (mention the Parent Representation Program)
  - E-mail: [opd@opd.wa.gov](mailto:opd@opd.wa.gov) (mention the Parent Representation Program)

- **Infinitem Legal Counsel, P.S., WA**

- Description: South Sound's first non-profit law firm committed to closing the access to justice gap for clients of low and moderate income by providing affordable legal services.
- Website: <https://www.infinlegal.org/>
- Phone Number: (253) 251- 2051

- **ABC Law Group**

- Description: In the Snohomish County, Skagit County and King County areas, the ABC Law Group has a proud tradition of providing effective, passionate and successful legal representation for parents involved with CPS and DSHS proceedings.
- Website: <https://www.abc-law-group.com/>
- Phone Number: (425) 953-5699
- E-mail: [service@abclawgroup.net](mailto:service@abclawgroup.net)

## Wisconsin

- **Wisconsin State Public Defender**

- Description: Parent representation within the public defender office.
- Website: <https://wispd.org/index.php>
- Phone: 715/524-6168

## Wyoming

- **Equal Justice Wyoming**

- Description: Equal Justice Wyoming takes on a broader range of clientele than simply parents navigating the child welfare system. However, under the umbrella of what they do is providing representation as well as advocacy groups for parents facing child welfare cases.
  - Website: <http://www.legalhelpwy.org/>
  - Phone Number: 307-777-8383
- \* [Handbook for Parents, Guardians, and Custodians in Child Abuse and Neglect Proceedings](#) and accompanying [Video](#)
    - This handbook and video are meant to help you understand Juvenile Court and to inform you of your rights and responsibilities as a parent.

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*If you wish to have your organization/online resource listed here, please contact us at [info@advocatesforpregnantwomen.org](mailto:info@advocatesforpregnantwomen.org).*

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*If you would like to learn more about the child welfare system we encourage you to explore the [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#) as well as the [National Coalition for Child Protection Reform](#).*

Last Updated on June 24, 2020.