

Engaging & Empowering Youth

Resources for Children and Adolescents

Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights

This book explores that all families change, family change is not a child's fault, and a child can remember and value his/her birth family and love his/her new family too. Straightforward words and full-color illustrations offer hope and support for children facing or experiencing change. Suitable for most children aged four to ten years old. Available at many retailers.

Nelson, J. (2006). *Families Change: A Book for Children Experiencing Termination of Parental Rights*. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing.

Get to Know the Judges and Magistrates (video)

The Denver Juvenile Court is helping to education children on what to expect during juvenile court hearings.

Colorado Courts

<https://vimeo.com/297797523>

Make your own coloring pages for children

During the 2017 E&EY Fall Conference Session, GAL Danita Alderton mentioned that she turns photographs of juvenile judges, the courthouse, the visitation center, caseworkers, CASAs, etc. into coloring pages for her clients. Danita provided the following steps to do so via a Samsung Galaxy:

- Go to "Gallery";
- Select the photo you want to make into a coloring page;
- Go to "Edit";
- Go to "Effects";
- Go to "Sketch."

Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care

By Jennifer Wilgocki and Marcia Kahn Right. Suitable for most children aged four to seven years old, is available at many retailers. This book is a straightforward look at the questions children in foster care commonly ask and the feelings they commonly confront.

Wilgocki, J. and Marcia Kahn Right. (2002). *Maybe Days: A Book for Children in Foster Care*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association

What Happens to Me Now: A Handbook for Children Who Are Not Living at Home

Available in English and Spanish in formats and suitable for most three to six-year olds, seven to 12 year olds, and 13-18 year olds. These booklets introduce children to the D&N process and D&N professionals.

State Court Administrator's Office, Colorado Court Improvement Project (CIP)

https://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/File/Self_Help/dnchildrens13-18_-_English.pdf

Resources for Adults

Children and Youth in Colorado Courts: Participation in Dependency and Neglect Proceedings

This Capstone Thesis Project reflects a qualitative study completed by Genevieve Rotella, graduate student at the University of Denver Colorado Women's College, in collaboration with

Amanda Donnelly, former Staff Attorney at OCR. This paper addresses the rate of attendance of Colorado youth at court proceedings.

Capstone Thesis Project, Office of the Child's Representative (2014)

<http://www.coloradochildrep.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Youth-in-Court-Report.pdf>

Handbook on Questioning Children: A Linguistic Perspective

By Anne Graffam Walker, published by the ABA Center on Children and the Law is available at many retailers. This book provides tips for communicating accurately with children in the legal system. Pertains to forensic interviewing, testifying, and questioning.

Graffam Walker, A. (2017). *Handbook on Questioning Children: A Linguistic Perspective*. Washington, D. C.: American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law.

Infographic: Supporting and Promoting Youth Attendance in Court

Created by OCR. Provides law, policies, and social science supporting youth in court.

<http://www.coloradochildrep.org/ocr-cases/engaging-youth/>

Judicial Bench Card[s]

Issued by the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, provide developmentally-appropriate tips for preparing children for court and communicating with children in general.

- *Engaging School Age Children (Ages 5-11) in the Courtroom:*
https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/center_on_children_and_the_law/empowerment/hasten_schoolage.authcheckdam.pdf
- *Engaging Adolescents (Ages 12-15) in the Courtroom:*
https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/center_on_children_and_the_law/empowerment/hasten_adolescent.authcheckdam.pdf
- *Engaging Older Adolescents (Ages 16+) in the Courtroom:*
https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/child_law/youthengagement/18399-Hasten-Older-CXE.authcheckdam.pdf

Strengths-Based Child Interviewing Tips: Preschoolers

This article is an excerpt from the book *Handbook on Questioning Children* by Anne Graffam Walker (book listed above), providing a thumbnail sketch of a few characteristics of the preschool-aged group. These characteristics will point the way to the kind of questioning that will build on children's strengths in telling us what we need to know.

American Bar Association, Center for Children and the Law

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/child_law/resources/child_law_practiceonline/child_law_practice/vol-33/june-2014/strength-based-child-interviewing-tips--preschoolers.html

Youth in Court Mythbusters

Created by OCR. Provides responses to nine myths commonly used to oppose youth in court (e.g., youth should be in school instead of court, youth will be traumatized by court, the benefits of youth attending court are outweighed by the burden of transporting youth to court, and youth are too young to understand court and make informed decisions).

<https://create.piktochart.com/output/9837067-youth-in-court-mythbusters>