



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS IN THE COURTROOM!

## DID YOU KNOW...

AS OF SEPTEMBER 2025, YOUTH IN CARE (AGE 14+) MUST BE NOTIFIED EVERY TIME A JUDICIAL REVIEW IS SCHEDULED

## What is a Judicial Review?

These are meetings held before a judge. The purpose is for them to hear how a young person is doing and make sure they are getting what they need from OCFS and their support systems.

Judicial reviews have to happen every 6 months but can be more frequent. It could be on zoom, phone, or at a courthouse.

People who will be there include your GAL/CASA, your caseworker, your bio parents, your foster parents (if you want), and lawyers.



## Tips for success



- **Dress neat and tidy:** like for an interview!
- **Speak respectfully:** call the judge "judge (last name)" or "your honor." Call the lawyers Mr. or Ms. (last name)
- **Options when talking to the judge:** You can talk to them in the courtroom, in their chambers/office, or write things down that you want them to know.
  - *You can request to **not** talk in front of your parents or relatives*
- **Check in with your CASA or GAL:** make sure they know your wishes
- **Let your caseworker know that you want to attend!** OCFS will support you in attending, including getting prepared, answering questions, help with transportation, etc.

## Remember!

These meetings can seem scary, but you are not in trouble. Everyone on your team wants what is best for you, and these meetings are to make sure that happens!

## Nothing about us without us!

For more information about how to be an advocate for yourself, or to watch videos about what to expect in court, visit the link below!

