

# Dependency Court Access

Video Series

## About This Resource

The Family & Youth Justice Programs (FYJP) created this series to support courts in making hearings easier to understand and more accessible. Feedback from over 200 judges, attorneys, coordinators, parents with lived experience, and staff during COVID recovery showed both benefits and challenges of remote hearings.

### What we learned:

- Remote hearings reduced barriers like transportation and childcare, and some families felt safer joining virtually.
- Judges, attorneys, and staff said participation improved when people knew what to expect.
- Families reported that they needed clear guidance and consistent support from courts to take part fully.
- Overall, while opinions on remote hearings varied, participants agreed that predictable and consistent court policies and practices are key to helping families engage.

## > The Court Access Video Series

- Attending Your Dependency Hearing – Offers simple tips on what to wear, when to talk, and how to prepare for both in-person and virtual hearings.
- Connecting to Your Hearing Using Zoom, Webex, or Teams – Provides step-by-step technical support for joining hearings and can be used by any court.
- Both videos are available in multiple languages.

## > Why Courts Should Use These Videos

This video gives families and participants practical tips for attending hearings, both in-person and virtual. It covers basics like how to prepare, what to expect, and simple ways to be ready, so that everyone can take part with more confidence.

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<https://fyjp.org/videos/>



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*Videos developed in partnership with Lived Experts*