

Preparing for Your Hearing

Part 1 in the Court Access Video Series

About This Resource

The Family & Youth Justice Programs (FYJP) works to increase access to justice by reducing barriers for families and court participants. During COVID recovery, feedback from 200+ judges, attorneys, coordinators, parents with lived experience, and staff showed that if families and participants knew what to expect, they were more successful in hearings.

Key Findings

- Sometimes families and court participants don't know the unspoken rules of court like how to dress, when to talk, or how hearings begin. When courts explain these rules clearly, participants can follow them and are set up for success.
- Judges and attorneys saw families engage more when expectations were clear.
- System partners agreed: while remote hearings made it easier for some to attend, families still needed direct guidance and support to fully participate.
- Courts that provide this support through predictable and consistent court policies and practices help families succeed.

What This Video Does

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.



Videos available in multiple languages

How Courts Can Use This Video

- Share QR code or link in notices, orders, or attorney communications.
- Post on the court website and in lobbies, clerk's offices, or self-help centers.
- Use in Dependency 101, staff training, or orientation sessions.
- Pair with predictable and consistent court policies and practices for hearings.

Connect to the
Full Video Series & Resources



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



Videos developed in partnership with Lived Experts