

Foster Parent and Relative Caregiver Survey

Thank you for taking the time to tell us your thoughts about the experience in court for children and youth. Your feedback is very important. Complete the survey *only if you attended the hearing* and it was an abuse/neglect dispositional, review, permanency or post-permanency hearings that the child/youth attended or could have attended. Everyone completes the first page, no matter if the child/youth attended the hearing or not. However, complete the 2nd page only if the child/youth attended the hearing. Also, if there is more than 1 child in the family living with you, please do your best to estimate the overall experience of the siblings. Youth can watch the video, “Court...I’m Going,” at <http://vimeo.com/graniteriver/children-in-court>

You are strongly encouraged to complete this survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CIPNH-FPRC>
 If you prefer to complete this survey on paper, please fill this out and return it to: NH Court Improvement Project, c/o Circuit Court Administrative Office, 45 Chenell Drive, Suite 2, Concord, NH 03301-8541.

Directions: Write, check the box (☑) or circle the answer for the items below.

1. Please write the date of the hearing: _____
2. Are you a foster parent or relative caregiver? Foster parent Relative caregiver
3. At which court did you attend the hearing?

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berlin | <input type="checkbox"/> Conway | <input type="checkbox"/> Hillsborough | <input type="checkbox"/> Lancaster | <input type="checkbox"/> Nashua | <input type="checkbox"/> Rochester |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brentwood | <input type="checkbox"/> Derry | <input type="checkbox"/> Hooksett | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon | <input type="checkbox"/> Newport | <input type="checkbox"/> Salem |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candia | <input type="checkbox"/> Dover | <input type="checkbox"/> Jaffrey/Peter | <input type="checkbox"/> Littleton | <input type="checkbox"/> Ossipee | <input type="checkbox"/> Seabrook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Claremont | <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin | borough | <input type="checkbox"/> Manchester | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaistow | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colebrook | <input type="checkbox"/> Goffstown | <input type="checkbox"/> Keene | <input type="checkbox"/> Merrimack | <input type="checkbox"/> Portsmouth | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concord | <input type="checkbox"/> Haverhill | <input type="checkbox"/> Laconia | <input type="checkbox"/> Milford | <input type="checkbox"/> Plymouth | |
4. Did the child/youth attend the hearing?

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | ➔ 4a. If no, why not? (check all that apply) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> 169-C order of protection or other no contact order with parent(s) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> School/activity conflict <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation not available |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth(s) was not invited to attend <input type="checkbox"/> Youth(s) chose not to attend |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Court sustained a party objection to attendance by child/youth |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |
5. Did you receive written notice about the hearing?

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | ➔ If yes, by whom? (check all that apply) | <input type="checkbox"/> Court | <input type="checkbox"/> DCYF |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
6. What is/are the age(s) of the child(ren)/youth? (check all that apply) 0-4 5-13 14-20

| Circle the answer that best reflects your opinion for each statement below. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | Does Not Apply |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 7. I knew what to expect at the court hearing. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 8. I felt adequately prepared by DCYF for court. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 9. I knew I could submit written comments to the court and all parties ahead of time. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 10. DCYF arranged with me to transport the child/youth to the court hearing. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 11. I knew that the child/youth was invited by the judge to attend court hearings. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |

12. Please share any additional comments you have about the above items and your experience in court:



PART II: COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF CHILD/YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN COURT.

| Circle the answer reflecting your opinion about the experience of the child/youth with court. | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know | Does Not Apply |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 13. The child/youth was encouraged to attend the court hearing or “otherwise participate” by submitting a letter, drawing or photograph. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 14. The child/youth felt supported in their decision to attend the court hearing or “otherwise participate” by submitting a letter, drawing or photograph. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 15. Receiving a letter from the judge (even if it was given at a prior hearing) encouraged the child/youth to attend the hearing. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 16. The child/youth knew what to expect before going to court. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 17. The child/youth felt comfortable going through the security process at court. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 18. The child/youth felt comfortable in court (waiting area, courtroom or judge’s office). | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 19. The judge spent time at the outset of the hearing making the child/youth feel welcome and comfortable. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 20. The child/youth felt the judge was interested in hearing from him/her. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 21. The judge made the child/youth feel comfortable in court. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 22. The child/youth felt comfortable answering the judge’s questions. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 23. It was uncomfortable for the child/youth to talk to the judge in front of everyone in the court hearing. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 24. The child/youth was given a chance to tell the judge about him/herself and their life. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 25. The child/youth wished he/she had told the judge more. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 26. The child/youth understood what happened at court. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 27. The child/youth felt good about deciding to go to court. | SA | A | D | SD | DK | NA |
| 28. Please share any additional observations or perceptions you have about the child/youth’s experience in court: | | | | | | |

Thank you for completing this survey!