

Get To Know Your Team

Your experience with the foster care system will include interactions with many different people. Working well with each of these members of your team will improve the chances of bringing your children home.

Your DCS Specialist

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

What do they do?

- Help you understand your case and make progress toward reunification.
- Work with your family to develop and monitor your case plan.
- Arrange services for you and visits with your child.
- Report to the court on your family's progress.

Tips for working with them:

- Ask any questions you may have about your case plan, your Specialist's expectations, and the services or resources that he or she provide, and conditions for return.
- Stay in touch and tell them about any changes in your life (new home, new job, etc.).

Foster Parents / Caregivers

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

What do they do?

- Take care of your children while they are in care.
- Can make visiting easier and help your children stay in touch with you between visits.

Tips for working with them:

- Communicate in a way that is safe and respectful for everyone.
- Tell them as much as you can about your children, including their likes and dislikes, fears, and how they like to be comforted.

Your Attorney

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- May be appointed by the court if you qualify for financial assistance, or you may also hire your own or work with a local legal services agency.
- Represents your interests and speaks up for you in court, including asking for the services you want or need.
- Should talk to you about your case between court dates.

Your Child's GAL or CASA

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- A Guardian ad Litem (GAL) is usually a lawyer who is automatically appointed for your child.
- Your child might also be assigned a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), a trained volunteer who helps in the process.
- They will monitor your children's case and make recommendations to the court about what's best for your children.
- You can work with your children's CASA or GAL by providing any information he or she needs to make good decisions for your children.

Peer Mentors

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Available to help families. Ask your Specialist to get in touch.
- Parents who have had children in foster care and successfully brought them back home.
- They were once in a similar situation and can answer questions, offer advice, and support you during the process.