

Livingston County

**Information
for
Parents and Guardians
of
Children in the
Child Welfare Court System**

A publication of the Livingston County Model Court. The Model Court is made up of the Livingston County Court, Livingston County Department of Human Services (DHS), Livingston County Community Mental Health, and other interested and concerned community members, including agencies, private attorneys, and mental health professionals.

Call 517-540-7789 with questions about Model Court.

Introduction to the Guide

This Guide is designed to help you through the court process. It has important information about how your case will be handled.

You may feel shocked, angry, or confused right now. That is understandable. This may be a good time to call on friends and family members to help and support you.

In most cases, the goal is to get your children back to you as soon as is safely possible. You will need to show the court that you can safely care for your child or children at home. It may take time and hard work to correct problems. Your foster care worker will help you.

The problems that led to this point will be sorted out in the time ahead. You will have a chance to get information that you need, to speak for yourself or have an attorney speak for you, and **the court will make decisions that are intended to be what is best for your children right now,** after considering all of the information that is available.

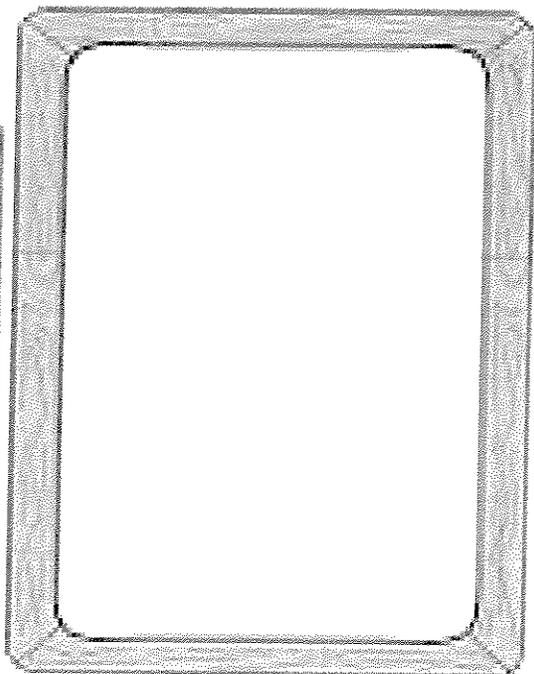
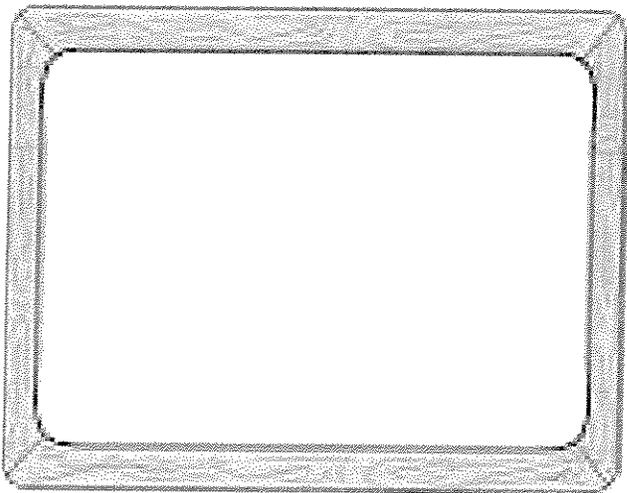
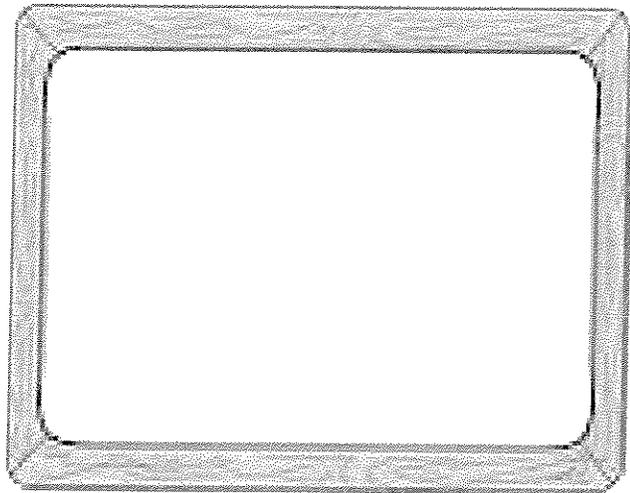
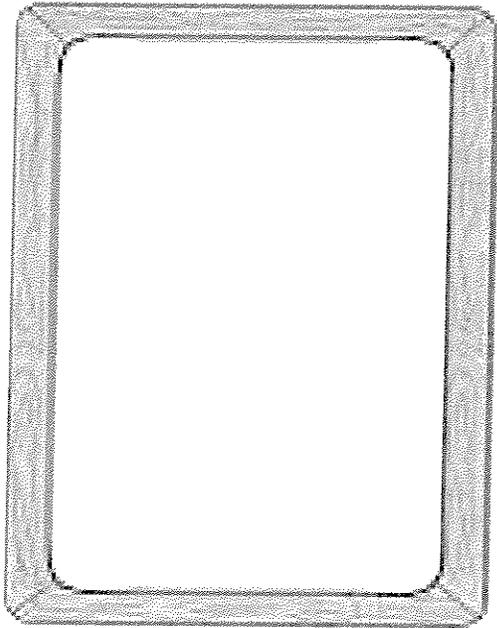
This guide includes the following information:

- **About the Court Case:** Explains what is going on at each step of your case, who is involved, and what you will be responsible for.
- **About Family Needs:** Helps you with services and supports that you may need.
- **About Your Case:** Helps you keep track of what is going on at each step of your case.

Please take some time to look through this Guide. You can ask questions at any point along the way, including when you see your foster care worker.

This Guide is not meant to be legal advice and it does not replace any information you receive from the court, your attorney, or other professionals. It is important that you work closely with an attorney you hire or one who is appointed by the Court to represent you.

Pictures of My Children



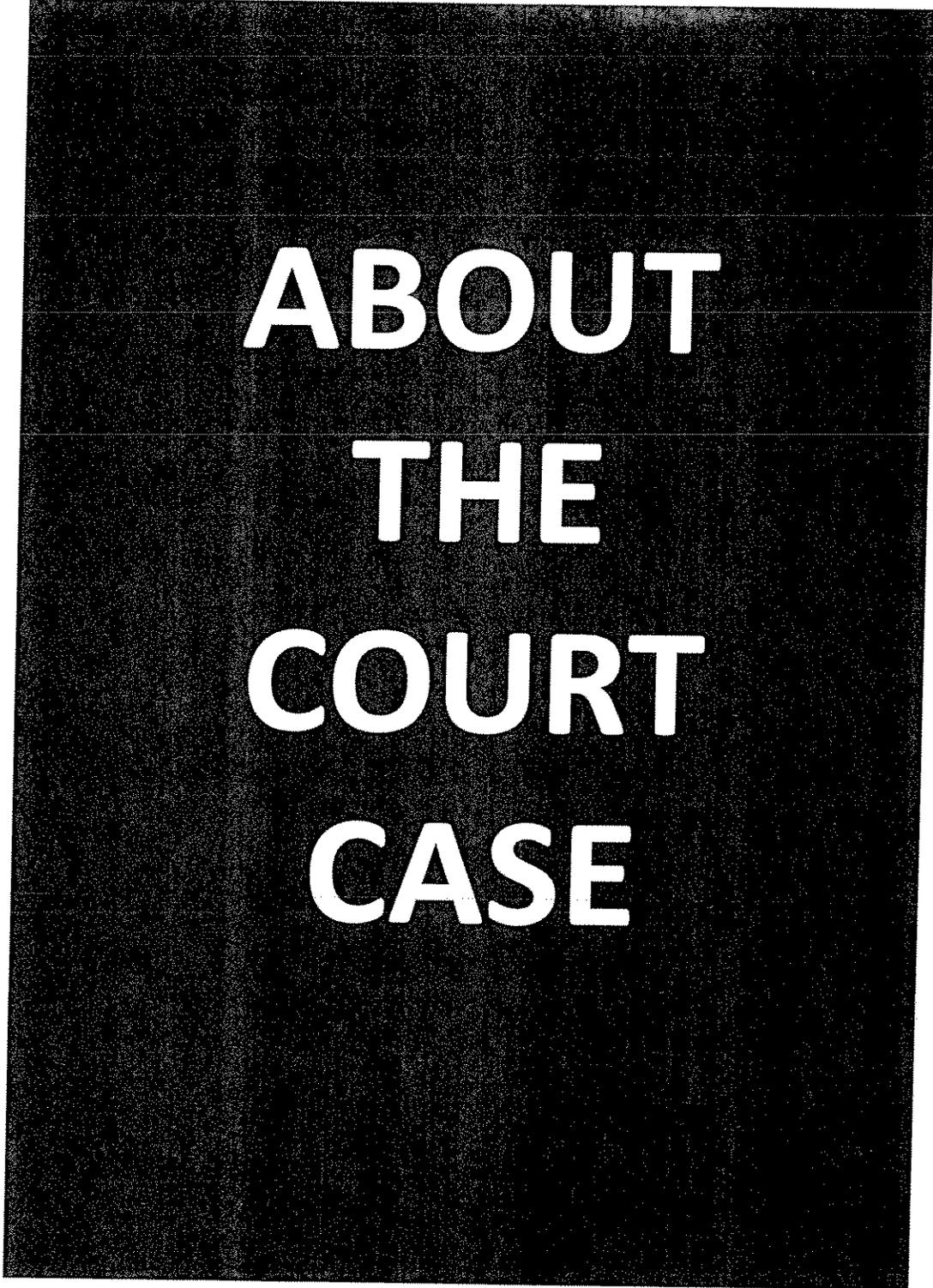
Contact Information

My Name:				
Children's Names:				
My Court Case Number:		My DHS Number:		
Date Children were Removed:		Judge in My Case:		
Court Address and Phone Number: 204 S. Highlander Way Judicial Center Building Howell, MI 48843 517-546-1500				

Role	Name	Phone/E-mail
My DHS Foster Care Worker		
My Attorney		
Attorney for My Child or Children (also called Guardian Ad Litem or LGAL)		
Others:		

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**ABOUT
THE
COURT
CASE**





Overview of the Case

Cases in child welfare courts must follow federal law and Michigan law. Also, the Department of Human Services has set up policies, which it must follow in working on these cases.

These have all been set up to keep children safe and to support parents in making changes that are needed to keep children safe.

The laws require that certain types of hearings take place within certain time frames. Those hearings, and the time frames that are required by law are discussed in more detail on the following pages.

At each stage of the process, the court must make specific findings, based on the evidence that is presented.

It is important for all parents to understand that they have rights, including the right to have an attorney represent them. You can discuss all aspects of the case with your attorney, and keep asking questions until you have all the information you need.

It is also important to understand that the system has responsibilities to you as a parent. You must have a chance to see your child or children at least once every seven days. If you have trouble with transportation to get to parenting time, the system will help you.

When you and your foster care worker are discussing your Parent-Agency Treatment Plan and Service Agreement (PATPSA), which is detailed more on the following pages, **you have a chance to tell DHS and the court what supports you need to be successful and to work**

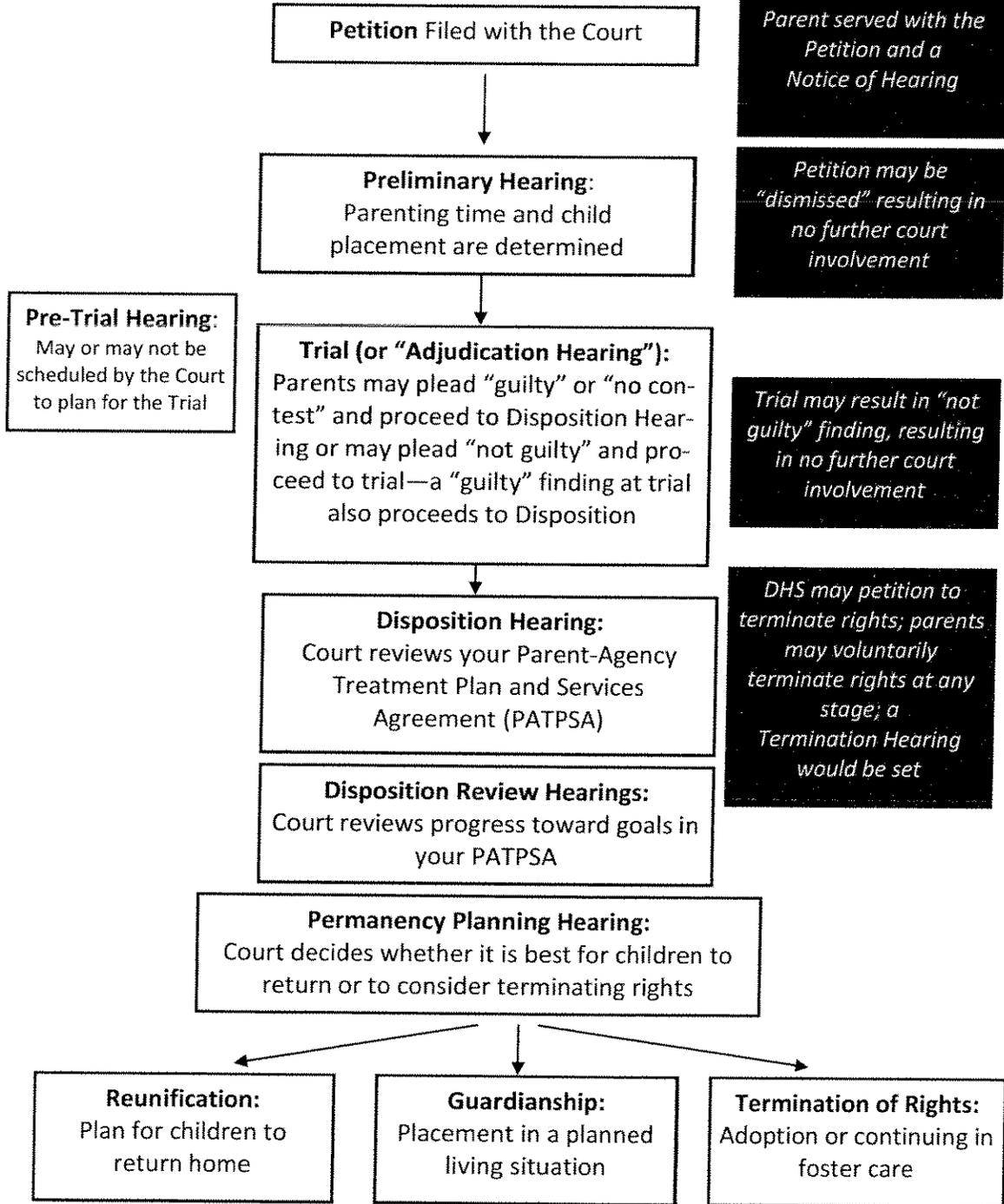
toward an agreement where supports that you need are provided to you.

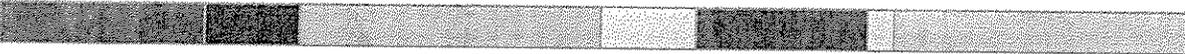
As your case moves through the phases **you can keep asking questions to make sure you understand exactly what you are being told you must do before your children can be returned.**

In the About My Case section, we have provided materials to help you keep track of who is working on your court case and how to contact them, and when the important court hearings will be held. You can use the Calendar section to note your parenting time and appointments with service providers you will be seeing. You can use the Notes section to write down questions you have.

Please stay in touch with your attorney and your foster care worker for more information, and make sure they can contact you if they need to.

Flow Chart of the Process





Definitions: Court Hearings

- Preliminary Hearing:** This hearing is held within 24 hours after your child or children are removed from your home. You will be notified why your children were removed and you will get a copy of the petition that was filed with the court. The court will tell you that you have a right to an attorney, and that if you do not hire an attorney one will be appointed for you.
- Pre-trial hearing:** The court may have a pre-trial hearing before the actual trial. At this hearing, the attorneys may meet with the judge and provide lists of information that are needed and lists of who would testify as a witness at trial.
- Trial (or “Adjudication Hearing”):** The trial must happen within 63 days of when your child or children were removed. At this hearing, each parent and the state has a chance to bring evidence, have their own witnesses, and question the witnesses on the other side.
- Disposition Hearing:** This hearing must happen within 35 days of the trial. The court will order what you and your foster care worker must do so your children can return home. This will all be outlined in your Parent-Agency Treatment Plan and Services Agreement (PATPSA). There is more information about this on Page 6 in this section.
It is possible that DHS will be asking the court to terminate (permanently end) your parental rights at this point. This is only in some extreme situations. In that case, a Termination Hearing date will be set at this time.
- Dispositional Review Hearings** These reviews take place every 91 days as long as your children are in care. The court will review your progress in completing the steps of your PATPSA and decide if it is safe for your child or children to be returned to your care.
- Permanency Planning Hearing:** This must happen no later than one year after your child or children are removed. The court will decide if it is safe to return your child or children to your care, or may order DHS to file a petition to terminate your rights.
- Termination Hearing:** If a petition to end your parental rights is filed the court will hold a termination hearing or trial and will make a decision after considering the evidence that is presented and the best interests of your child or children.
- Voluntary Release** After considering all options, you may decide to give up your parental rights at any time during the case.

The People Involved in Your Case

Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Protective Services (CPS) Worker:

This is a person who investigated a report of abuse and/or neglect regarding your child or children. The worker asked the court for an order to remove your child or children, because the worker believed that the children were not safe in your care.

DHS Foster Care Worker:

This is a person who took over from the CPS worker once the children were removed. This person is responsible for making sure you have visits with your child or children. This person will work with you to reach an agreement on the Parent-Agency Treatment Plan (PATSA). The PATSA lists goals you must accomplish to have your child or children returned to your care. This person will also talk with you about your child or children's needs related to school, to medical care, to dental care, and other issues.

Judge or Referee:

This person holds the court hearings related to your case and will listen to all of the information that is presented to make decisions about your family. This person will decide about your parenting time, and the services you need to successfully complete. This person will review how you are doing, make changes to the services you are getting if needed, and make decisions about your child or children coming back to your care.

Your Attorney:

This person gives you legal advice and represents you in court. You can hire your own attorney or you can ask the court to appoint an attorney for you, at no cost to you. You should ask your attorney questions about the case, and work with your attorney toward having the best outcomes for your child or children. You're your attorney can help you review your case file, get and present information that you think the court should know about your case, and make statements to the court on your behalf.

Assistant Prosecutor:

This person represents the People of the State of Michigan and is a part of the court process to support safety in the community and to work toward positive outcomes for children and their families.

Children's Attorney (Legal Guardian Ad Litem, or LGAL)

This person is appointed by the court to represent your child or children and will attend all court hearings. This person will talk to your child or children, and to others to find out what your child or children need, to make sure that they get the services and supports that they need while they are in care.

Foster Parent

Your child or children may be placed in a foster home, a shelter home, residential care, or in a relative's home. If they are in a foster home, the home will be licensed by the state to meet standards intended to keep your children safe. Foster parents are trained and the foster care worker keeps in close contact with them.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities During the Case

Parents are expected to be actively involved in this process. It is important that you know what is expected of you at each step, and that you make sure that you do what is expected. You can talk with your attorney and your Foster Care Worker about specific things you need to be paying attention to, but here are some basic ideas:

- **Make sure you understand what the problems are that need to be addressed**, and take the action that is needed to address these problems. The Court will want to know that you have done everything that is needed to show that your children can be returned safely to your care.
- **Make sure that you are where you need to be, when you need to be there**, including your Court dates, parenting time, meetings with your attorney and foster care worker. We are providing a sheet for you to write in contact information so you can let people know if you will be late or unable to make it to an appointment, and a calendar to help you keep track of all of your dates and responsibilities.
- **Make sure that you are prepared for Court**, including that you arrive on time and are dressed appropriately in clean, business-like clothes. No t-shirts or shorts. Make sure you bring copies of the papers related to your case, you always use respectful language. Please do not eat, drink, or chew gum in the courtroom. Do not bring cell phones or other electronic devices – they are not allowed in the Court unless you have an order from the Judge to bring them in as evidence.
- **Keep in touch with your Foster Care Worker**, and make sure that your worker knows about your accomplishments, but also make sure that your worker knows when you need help, and what kind of help you need. You can ask your worker to give you feedback about how you are doing, and to give you suggestions for what to do.
- **Stay involved in your children's lives in a positive way**, including, as discussed with your foster care worker and the foster parents, being part of parent-teacher conferences, attending doctor appointments, attending sports games or performances, or generally being available to talk by phone or to exchange letters or e-mails. (continued)

DHS Case Service Plan “Parent Agency Treatment Plan and Service Agreement” (PATPSA)

The **Case Service Plan** includes all reports written by the foster care agency about your case. It includes the Initial Service Plan, the Updated Service Plan, and the Parent-Agency Treatment Plan and Services Agreement.

- The **Initial Service Plan (ISP)** is a report written by the foster care worker that includes information about you, your family, and your child or children. It lists the services that are needed to bring your family back together again.
- The **Parent-Agency Treatment Plan and Service Agreement (PATPSA)** is developed by you and your foster care worker together. If the plan is for your child or children to be returned to your care, then the PATPSA will list what you and your worker both must do to resolve the problems that caused your child or children to be removed. More detail on the PATPSA follows.
- The **Updated Service Plan (USP)** includes reports written by your foster care worker every 90 days, with information about progress toward achieving the **Permanency Planning Goal**. The Permanency Planning Goal is developed by your foster care worker and is listed in your service plans. It says whether the plan is to return your child or children to your home, or to do something else, like have them live permanently with a relative, terminate your pa-

rental rights so that they can be adopted by another family, or another plan.

Unless your parental rights have been terminated, you have a right to ask for and receive a copy of all the reports and plans written by the foster care agency about your case.

The **Parent-Agency Treatment and Service Agreement (PATPSA)** includes all of the actions and responsibilities of everyone in the case. This includes you, the foster parents, your child or children and the DHS foster care worker.

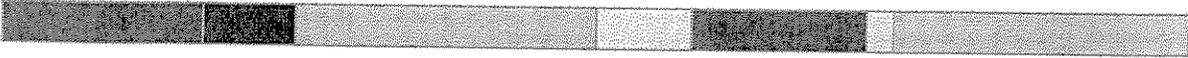
You and your DHS foster care worker will develop this plan together. If the plan is for your child or children to return to your care, your PATPSA will include:

- Actions you and, if applicable, your partner must take before your child or children can return to your care
- Actions your foster care worker must take to assist you and your child or children
- Parenting time arrangements

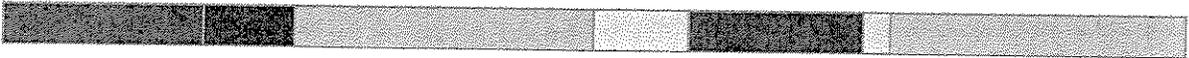
The court will review the plan and may add, change, or delete certain items from it. Some examples of things that may be part of your PATPSA are:

- Maintain safe housing
- Maintain employment to support your family
- Attend parenting classes, mental health counseling, or substance abuse treatment

There may be other items, depending on your case.



ABOUT FAMILY NEEDS



Successful Parenting Time

The time you spend with your children is important for them and for you. You have a right to see your children at least once every seven days unless there is an order prohibiting it.

We have been working hard to find ways to support positive parenting time. In most cases, we are working toward the time when you and your children will be able to be on your own.

For now, though, there can be some limitations. The court may have decided that someone should be with you when you see your children. If so, parenting time is “supervised”, and may be supervised by a DHS worker.

Your Parent-Agency Treatment Plan and Service Agreement (PATPSA) will outline when and where parenting time will happen. If you need help with transportation, check with your Foster Care Worker.

We have talked with parents and as a result we are working to make this supervised parenting time as comfortable as possible for parents and children. We schedule parenting time for as many days per week, and as much time per visit as we can because more frequent parenting time for longer periods of time is usually good for children and parents. We schedule parenting time in comfortable, community based locations whenever possible so that there is room to move around and play.

We have worked with experts in parenting time who tell us that there are five things that are most important to pay attention to in parenting time. These things are:

- **Emotion:** Stress, grief, sadness, confusion, worry, guilt, embarrassment, loneliness, fear, and disappointment are all normal emotions during this time, and they apply to parents and to children. It is important

to develop skills for dealing with emotions, which will help you and serve as a good model for your children. Examples of these skills might be to talk things out, to write things down in a journal, to stay active and healthy, and to focus on the things you can control.

- **Communication:** This includes talking and listening to the different people involved in your case, so that you know exactly what to do to work toward getting your children back in your care. Some skills that can be helpful include paying attention to how you get information, how you are able to say what your concerns are, how you are able to talk about your children even though they are with someone else, and how you handle disagreements with other.
- **Preparation:** Children may be confused or anxious, and they may benefit from you thinking ahead of time about what they need, what they may be missing, and other things. You can bring special toys or games to your parenting time or crafts to work on together.
- **Connection:** It is important to be there consistently and on time, to have things that you enjoy doing together, and to make positive connections with the people who are caring for your child. You can reflect on your child and what seems to work best for connecting – is it playing a sport, or doing a craft or reading a book – and try to focus parenting time in that direction. It is also important for your children to be able to see positive con-

Successful Parenting Time (continued)

nections being made between you and the foster parent.

- **Transition:** Saying goodbye to each other can be very hard, but taking the time to think about what went well and what you did not like may help you to feel more in control and to look forward to preparing for the next visit.

Parenting is one of the hardest jobs there is for anyone. All parents can benefit from learning more about how children's brains work, what to expect from children at each stage of their development, and how to support positive growth while setting loving limits. You may be attending parenting classes as part of your Parent-Agency Treatment Plan, or you may want to check out resources on your own. The Women's Resource Center, The Livingston Family Center, and other organizations offer classes.

There are also books and other resources available through the local libraries. As a parent, you are the most important teacher for your children. Your children are watching how you handle things and are often copying you. You can help them by learning to manage difficult emotions, by responding to what they need, and by working toward solutions to problems.

Here are some ideas for what to do during visits:

- For younger children, bring books, toys, games, puzzles or other activities your child enjoys
- For older children, ask them how they are doing, talk about school, play a game, do a craft project, or other activities your child enjoys
- Make sure that you give individual attention to each child at some point during the parenting time.
- Do not talk with your children about the case, and do not bring up topics that the court has ordered not to be discussed with the children. Be mindful that all conversations are appropriate for your child or children.

Domestic Violence Information

Domestic Violence is serious.

Everyone has a right to be safe, and safety includes being free from physical harm, fear, or intimidation. If you fear for your safety or just want to talk about your situation, call LACASA, Livingston County's Domestic Violence organization, at 517 548 1350, or on their 24 hr. Toll Free Crisis Line 866 522 2725. You can visit LACASA on line at lacasa1.org or you can come to their office in Howell at 2895 W. Grand River to talk to a counselor or to use their shelter.

Here are some questions to help understand if there has been abusive behavior

- Does your partner monitor all of your time; keep track of where you go, who you talk with and what you do?
- Have you ever seen a doctor for an injury caused by your partner?
- After your partner harms you or abuses you does your partner apologize for their behavior? Promise it will never happen again? Deny that the abuse took place or say that it was not as bad as you claim?
- Has your partner ever hurt or abused your child or your household pet?

REMEMBER....YOU ARE NOT ALONE

You may not know what you want or where to turn. You may be afraid to take any action that might make your partner more angry. If you have children, you may be worried about them.

You may be concerned about your financial situation. These are valid concerns and it is important to consider the physical and emotional toll abuse can have on you and your family.

It is reported by many survivors that abuse in a relationship often escalates, becoming more frequent and dangerous. It may be helpful for you to talk things out and explore different options with a counselor or support group.

Parents who are abusers should know that there is help available in this community to support positive change, but that continued use of abuse is not acceptable.

Consider these questions in thinking about whether you may be abusive...

- It seems like I have two different personalities: one side is very loving, while the other is cruel and hurtful.☐
- I am excessively jealous and possessive.
- I want to control my partner's relationships with family, coworkers and friends
- I want to make all the important decisions ☐
- I limit my partner's access to money and other financial resources.☐
- I have humiliated my partner with name calling, put-downs, and mind games
- My partner is afraid of my behavior at times. (continued)

Domestic Violence Information (continued)

- I blame my behavior on my partner, other people or other things.
 - I have threatened my partner or someone they care about.
 - I have thrown things at my partner, broken or stolen possessions, called, put downs and mind games ☐ I have restrained, pushed, shoved, hit, slapped, kicked, punched, or hurt my partner in a physical way.
 - I have humiliated, harassed or mistreated my partner.
 - I have used the children against my partner – put down parenting skills, encouraged the kids to be abusive to my partner or threatened regarding the children’s custody or safety.
 - After a hurtful incident, I apologized and was loving to my partner for a time, and promised to change.
 - Need to describe the assault repeatedly
 - Extreme shame, blaming self, or excusing the rapist
 - Rage, possibly inappropriately directed
 - Emotional withdrawal
 - Age regression
 - Need for great seclusion or need to be surrounded by people at all times
 - Changes in sleeping or eating patterns
 - Onset or relapse of eating disorders
 - Onset or relapse of substance abuse
 - Changes in physical appearance (may be extreme)
 - Great efforts into maintaining a “normal appearance”
 - Flashbacks, panic attacks, or even brief psychotic episodes
 - Change in social behavior or social group
- Contact LACASA for support if you have been assaulted.

*Provided courtesy of LACASA
www.lacasa1.org. LACASA offers a Domestic Abuse Intervention Program.

A related issue is reactions associated with sexual trauma following sexual assault. Normal reactions include:

- Intense or wild mood swings
- Great concern about security (checking door locks, etc.)
- Periods of extreme withdrawal alternating with great frustration and edginess
- Disorientation and periods of memory loss

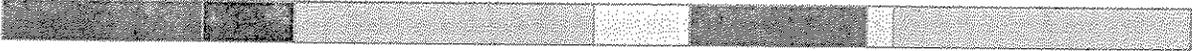
Substance Abuse Information

Substance Abuse affects many of the families who are involved in the Child Welfare System. Consider the following questions carefully in asking whether you have a substance abuse problem, and if so, consider seeking out resources to help.

The following questions were adapted from those written by recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous and published in the NA's brochure entitled, "Am I an Addict?"

- Do you ever use alone?
- Have you ever replaced one drug for another, thinking one particular drug was the problem?
- Have you ever manipulated or lied to a doctor to get prescription drugs?
- Have you ever stolen drugs or stolen to get drugs?
- Do you regularly use a drug when you wake up or when you go to bed?
- Have you ever taken one drug to overcome the effects of another?
- Do you avoid people or places that do not approve of you using drugs?
- Have you ever used a drug without knowing what it was or what it would do?
- Has your job or school performance suffered from the effects of your drug use?
- Have you ever been arrested as the result of your use?
- Have you ever lied about what or how much you use?
- Do you put the purchase of drugs ahead of your financial responsibilities?
- Have you ever tried to stop or control your use?
- Have you ever been in jail, hospital or drug rehab because of your use?
- Does using interfere with your sleeping or eating?
- Does the thought of running out of drugs terrify you?
- Do you feel it is impossible to live without drugs?
- Do you ever question your own sanity?
- Is your drug use making life at home unhappy?
- Have you ever thought you couldn't fit in or have a good time without drugs?
- Have you ever felt defensive, guilty or ashamed about your using?
- Do you think a lot about drugs?
- Have you had irrational or indefinable fears?
- Has your using affected your sexual relationships?
- Have you ever taken drugs you didn't prefer?
- Have you ever used drugs because of emotional pain or stress?
- Do you continue to use despite negative consequences?
- Do you think you have a drug or alcohol problem?

If you answered "yes" to some of the above questions, you may want to seek further evaluation.



Community Services and Resources

Your Department of Human Services (DHS) Case Worker can help you connect to services that can help your family.

If you do not have a direct number for your case worker, you can call the DHS office at 517-548-0200.

DHS is located at 2300 E. Grand River Ave., Ste. 1 Howell, MI 48843 in the County East Complex at Grand River and Chilson Road. *Other resources you may need can be found on the following pages in the categories of:*

- Basic Needs
- Mental Health and Counseling
- Services for Teens
- Education and Community Services

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FOR FAMILIES INVOLVED WITH THE CHILD WELFARE COURT SYSTEM

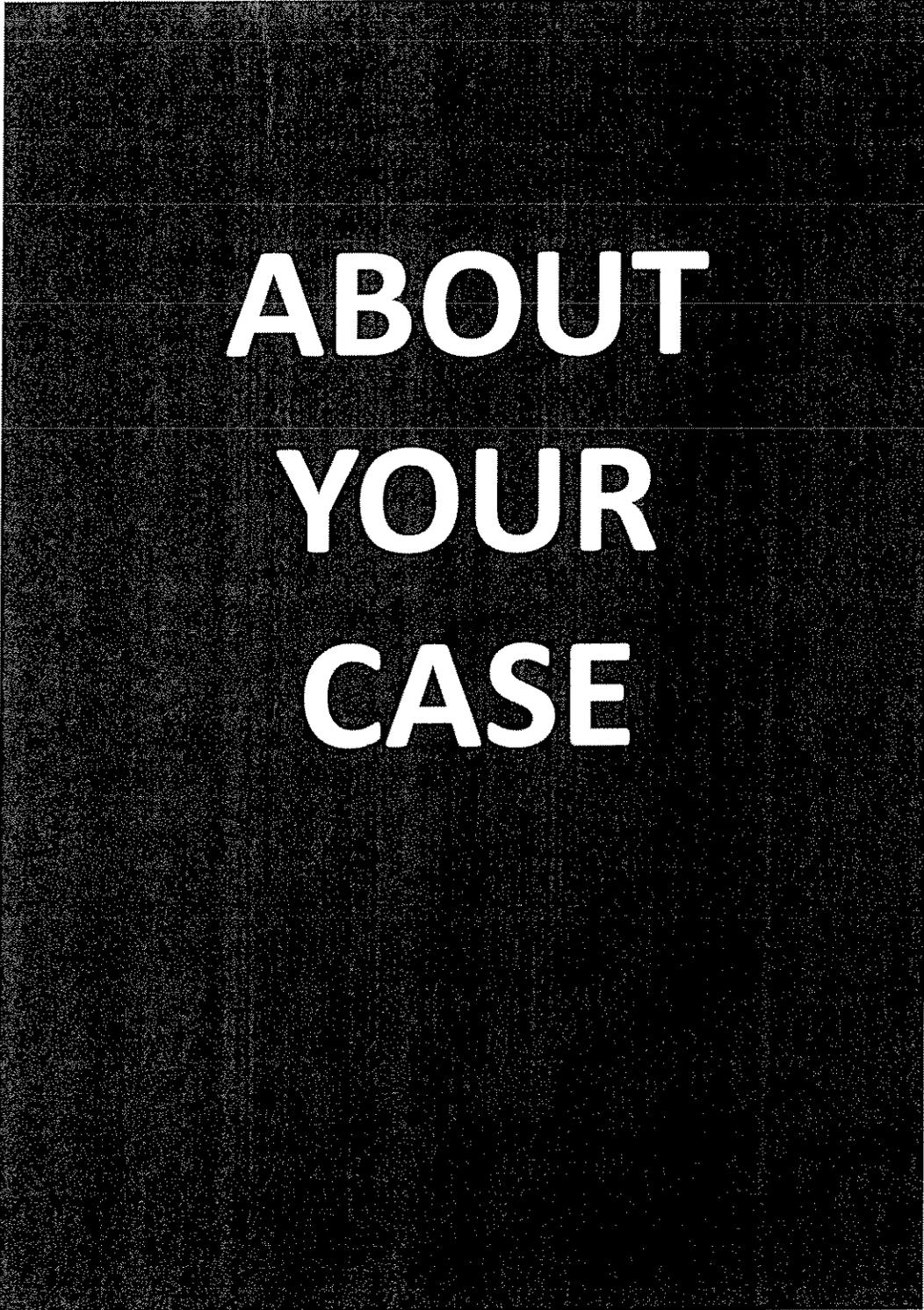
<p>Basic Needs: There are organizations that can help with your basic needs like food, safety, and health care.</p>	
<p>Central Michigan 211 2-1-1 information and referral service for the following counties in Michigan: Clinton, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lenawee and Livingston. (866) 561 2500 or (517) 789 1211 or simply call 2-1-1 from service area www.centalmichigan211.org/</p>	<p>Livingston Community Food Bank Emergency Food Bank 5079 Canterbury Rd. Brighton, MI 48814 810 225 FOOD</p>
<p>Oakland/Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA) 2300 E. Grand River Ave Ste. 1 Howell, MI 48843 517 546 8500</p>	<p>LACASA Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, & Child Abuse Services 2895 W. Grand River Avenue Howell, MI 48843 517 548 1350 24 hr. Toll Free Crisis Line 866 522 2725</p>
<p>Health Services Access 555 Towner Street P.O. Box 915 Ypsilanti, MI 48197 800 440 7548</p>	<p>Michigan Works! Livingston Service Center Employment Services 1255 E. Grand River Ave Howell, MI 48843 517 546 7450 www.co.livingston.mi.us/miworks</p>
<p>Livingston Essential Transportation Services (L.E.T.S.) 3950 W. Grand River Ave Howell, MI 48843 517 546 6600 www.co.livingston.mi.us/departments/lets</p>	<p>Women's Resource Center Parenting & Family Services 3471 E. Grand River Ave Howell, MI 48843 810 227 9960 www.wrc-Livingston.org</p>

<p>Mental Health and Counseling: Your plan may include working with a specific mental health professional, but if you need to find a mental health professional, here are some options.</p>	
<p>Livingston County Community Mental Health 2280 E. Grand River Ave. Howell, MI 48843 517 546 4126 Director: Mack Miller www.comnet.org/cmh</p>	<p>Advanced Behavioral Medicine 2901 E. Grand River Ave Howell, MI 48843 517 548 1537 http://www.advancedbehavioralmedicine.com/</p>
<p>Complete Counseling Center 721 E. Grand River Ave Howell, MI 48843 517 546 4445</p>	<p>Livingston County Catholic Charities Individual & Family Counseling 2020 East Grand River Ave Suite 103 Howell, MI 48843 517 545 5944 LCCSS@voyager.net</p>
<p>Livingston Family Center 4376 E. M-36 Pinckney, MI 48169 810 231 9591 http://livingstonfamilycenter.org/</p>	<p>Livingston County Wraparound Services 3760 Cleary College Drive Howell, MI 48843 517 548 0081</p>
<p>Substance Abuse Services: You may be referred to a specific provider to address substance abuse issues, but if you need to find other resources, here are some options</p>	
<p>ALANON Support Groups 320 Bijou Howell, MI 48843 517 546 9350 http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/</p>	<p>Brighton Hospital Adolescent Services 12851 E. Grand River Ave Brighton, MI 48116 810 225 2580 www.brightonhospital.org</p>
<p>Karen Bergbower & Associates Counseling Services 10291 Grand River Ave Brighton, MI 48116-6542 810 225 9550</p>	<p>Key Alliance, Inc. – Human Development Services 210 S. East Street Ste. 2 Brighton, MI 48116 810 220 8192</p>

Services for teens: You may need to find supportive services for your children.	
<p>Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Livingston County 1004 Pinckney Road Suite 203 Howell, MI 48843</p>	<p>Boy Scouts of America, Great Sauk Trail Council 1979 Huron Parkway Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734 971 7100 www.bsa-greatsauktrail.org</p>
<p>Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council 1900 Manchester Road Ann Arbor, MI 48106 734 971 8800 www.gshom.org</p>	<p>Gateway Community Services 910 Abbott Road Suite 100 East Lansing, MI 48823 517 351 4000 www.gatewayservices.org</p>
<p>The Connection Youth Services Provide Assistance to Youth & Family 866-440-7233 theconnection.LFC@gmail.com</p>	<p>4-H Youth Program 820 E. Grand River Ave Howell, MI 48843 517 546 3950 www.co.livingston.mi.us/msuextension</p>
<p>Midcourse Correction Boot Camp P.O. Box 250 Hamburg Rd. Hamburg, MI 48139 810 227 0243 www.midcoursecorrection.org</p>	<p>Ozone House Runaway Shelter 1705 Washtenaw Ave Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734 662 2222 www.ozonehouse.org</p>

<p>Education and Community Services: You may need to find support for your own or your children's education. Here are some numbers.</p>	
	<p>Sylvan Learning Center 8700 N. 2nd Street Suite 201 Brighton, MI 48116 810 227 1800 www.tutoring.sylvanlearning.com</p>
<p>Brighton Community Education 7878 Brighton Road Brighton, MI 48116 810 229 1419</p>	<p>Brighton District Library 100 Library Drive Brighton, MI 48816 http://brightonlibrary.info</p>
<p>Fowlerville Community Education & Recreation 444 N. Hibbard Street P.O. Box 769 Fowlerville, MI 48836 517 223 6483</p>	<p>Fowlerville District Library 131 Mill Street Fowlerville, MI 48836 517 223 9089 library131@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Genesis Alternative Education Hartland Consolidated Schools P.O. Box 900 Hartland, MI 48353 810 632 6022</p>	<p>Hartland Community Education & Child Care Center 10235 School Street P.O. Box 900 Hartland, MI 48353</p>
<p>Hartland Cromaine District Library 3688 N. Hartland P.O. Box 308 Hartland, MI 48353 810 632 5200 www.cromaine.org</p>	<p>Howell Area Recreation Department Alcohol Cessation 925 W. Grand River Ave Howell, MI 48843 517 546 0693</p>
<p>Howell Carnegie District Library 314 W. Grand River Ave Howell, MI 48843 517 546 0720 www.howell-carnegie.lib.mi.us</p>	<p>Howell Community Education 1400 West Grand River Howell, MI 48843 Days: 517 548 6280/Nights: 517 548 6326</p>
<p>Pinckney Community Education 125 Putnam Street P.O. Box 48 Pinckney, MI 48169 810 225 3705</p>	<p>Pinckney Community Public Library 350 Mower Road Pinckney, MI 48169 734 878 3888 www.pinckney.lib.mi.us</p>
<p>Other Services and Supports</p>	
<p>ARC of Livingston County Assisting those with Developmental Disabilities 1044 Durant Drive Suite 1</p>	<p>Livingston Community Hospice Grief and Loss Services 620 Byron Rd. Howell, MI 48843 800 862 5162</p>

<p>Howell, Michigan 48843 517 546 1228 www.arclivingston.org</p>	
<p>Forever Families Pregnancy Counseling/Adoption Services 121 S. Barnard Street # 8 Howell, MI 48843 248 318 5315 www.foreverfamilies@ameritech.net</p>	<p>Planned Parenthood Sex & Pregnancy Counseling 7900 Grand River Ave Brighton, MI 48116 810 220 4513 & 3100 Professional Drive Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734 973 0710 www.miplannedparenthood.org</p>
<p>Human Development Center Inc. 2708 East Grand River Howell, MI 48843 517 545 5890</p>	<p>Pregnancy Help Line Hartland Woods Square 9560 Highland Road Howell, MI 48843 810 632 5656 www.pregnancy-helpline.org</p>
<p>Livingston County Friend of the Court 210 S. Highlander Way P.O. Box 707 Howell, MI 48844 517 546 0230</p>	<p>Livingston County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney 210 S. Highlander Way Howell, MI 48843 517 548 1850 Prosecuting Attorney: David Morse Juvenile Attorneys: Marilyn Bradford William McCririe III</p>
<p>Livingston County MSU Extension Livingston Educational Service Agency 1425 W. Grand River Ave Howell, MI 48843</p>	<p>Livingston County Department of Public Health (WIC) 2300 E. Grand River Ave Suite 102 Howell, MI 48843 517 546 9850</p>



ABOUT YOUR CASE



Contact Information

My Court Case Number:	My DHS Number:
Date Child or Children were Removed:	Judge in My Case:
Court Address and Phone Number: 204 S. Highlander Way Judicial Center Building Howell, MI 48843 517-546-1500	

Role	Name	Phone/E-mail
My DHS Foster Care Worker		
My Attorney		
Attorney for My Child or Children (also called Guardian Ad Litem or LGAL)		
Others:		

Court Schedule

Date My Child or Children Removed:	
Type of Hearing*	Date of Hearing
Preliminary Hearing Date	
Pre-Trial Hearing	
Trial (Adjudication) Hearing	
Disposition Hearing	
Dispositional Review Hearing #1	
Dispositional Review Hearing #2	
Dispositional Review Hearing #3	
Dispositional Review Hearing	
Permanency Planning Hearing	
Termination Hearing	

* Note: Types of hearings are described in "About the Court Case" page 3

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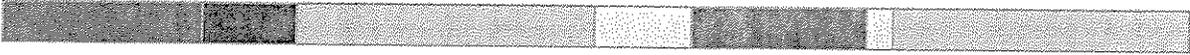
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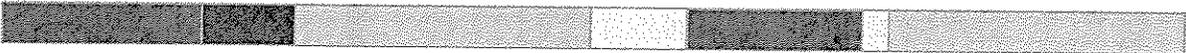
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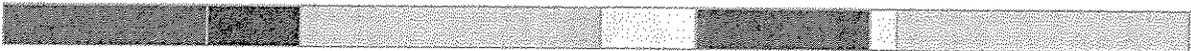


NOTES





NOTES



Livingston County Model Court – Parent Information materials

In 2008, Livingston County became one of only 34 jurisdictions in the US to be designated as a “Model Court” by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). Model Courts serve as laboratories for meaningful systems change to the manner in which child abuse and neglect cases are processed through the court and the child protection system. Livingston County is the only Model Court in Michigan, and it joins large cities such as New York, Chicago, and LA in networking and benefiting from technical assistance and exchange of information among Model Courts.

Under the leadership of Hon. Carol Hackett Garagiola, lead judge for the Livingston County Model Court, a community collaborative including the Court, Department of Human Services, Community Mental Health, and representatives of interested agencies and private practitioners has been formed and has been working to identify and implement concrete improvements. The following is one accomplishment of one of the Model Court’s active work groups. It should also be noted that Livingston County has recently been designated as a Juvenile Justice Model Court in addition to its work as a Dependency Model Court and a collaborative has also been formed to address improvements in the Juvenile Justice System, as well as to pay particular attention to those young people who are involved in both the neglect and abuse and juvenile justice systems.

Goal:

- Ensure that Livingston County dependency court practices are supportive of parents’ and caregivers’ ability to navigate and succeed in the child protection system.

Action:

- Develop a package of information to be given to parents. Include information about the court process, family needs and services, and tools to help keep track of what is going on in the case.

Action Steps Completed:

- Develop and refine materials to be included
- Produce information packages
- Inform foster care workers, parent attorneys, and others that the packages are available
- Distribute to parents through foster care workers or attorneys

Additional action required:

- Continue to refine/expand materials based on feedback from parents, foster care workers, and attorneys
- Evaluate use of and satisfaction with materials
- Evaluate whether materials accomplished the intended goals
- Evaluate whether some combination of materials plus orientation is more effective in accomplishing goals
- Make changes to materials and distribution process according to results of evaluation