



1



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Helping youth become **more knowledgeable** about their cases
– who are *all of these* people,
what is *this hearing* about, what
are *my* rights, etc.

Helping youth become **more active participants** in their cases
– hearings, meetings, document
preparation, etc.

3



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Youth say...

<https://jjie.org/2016/04/30/powerful-voices-of-new-york-citys-former-foster-youth/236431/>

5



Colorado youth say...

GALs **update youth** on what is happening.

6



Colorado youth say...

When representing the best interests of youth, GALs take into account **youth voice**.

7



Colorado youth say...

A GAL's job is to talk with youth about the **reasons why youth want what they want**.

8



Colorado youth say... My GAL **actually** listens to me.

9



Colorado youth say... My GAL is **really good** at **explaining** all the numbers the court uses.

10



Colorado youth say...

My GAL is amazing & **supportive** to me & is **vouching** for me.

11



Colorado youth say...

She always **treated** me with respect and **humanity**.

12



Colorado youth say...

My GAL helped stick up for me & helped me get where I am now.

13



Colorado youth say...

My GAL stayed with me for the long term.

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1. E&Y benefits children/youth.

How?

Additional Source: Children in Court Fact Sheet in the GRID at F41-42.

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2. E&Y benefits courts and other decision-makers.

Youth participation creates greater:

- A greater **breadth and depth** of information;
- Greater **transparency and accountability**; and
- Improved **quality of decisions**, as decision-makers learn more about the youth and have a better understanding of what the youth needs/wants and why.

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3. E&EY is required by federal law.

- Child and Family Services Improvement Act requires procedural safeguards to assure that in **permanency hearing** (including any hearing regarding the transition of a child from foster care to successful adulthood), the court or administrative body conducting the hearing **consults with the child in an age appropriate manner regarding the proposed permanency/transition plan**.
- Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act requires courts to **ask children with OPPLA permanency goals about their desired permanency outcome**.
- Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act requires **the youth**, the youth's caseworker, and other **representatives of the youth's choosing** to develop a **transition plan** at least 90 days prior to the youth's 18th birthday (or the age required by the state for aging of care). **Housing, education, employment, mentoring, and included support services must be included in the plan.**

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4. E&EY is required by state law.

Youth rights include:

- Having **persons they wish present** at their hearings. § 19-1-106(2).
- Receiving **notice** of hearings. 19-3-502(7).
- **Being consulted with by the court in an age-appropriate manner** regarding their permanency plan. § 19-3-702(3.7).

See Youth in Court and Children's Rights Fact Sheets of the GRID for additional information.



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5. E&EY is required by Chief Justice Directive 04-06.

A determination of a child's best interests must include **consultation with the child in a developmentally appropriate manner and consideration of the child's position regarding the disposition of the matter before the court.** (V)(B).

When ascertaining the child's position regarding issues before the court, the GAL shall endeavor to **maximize the child's involvement in the court proceedings, when consistent with the child's best interests**, by:

- discussing the **court process**,
- ascertaining **whether the child wishes to appear in court, &**
- **identifying and advocating for the elimination of barriers to the child's attendance at court.**

Commentary to (V)(D)(1) .

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6. E&EY is recommended by national organizations.

- The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)'s policy is that children of **all ages should be present in court and attend each hearing, mediation, pre-trial conference, & settlement conference unless the judge decides it is not safe or appropriate.**
- The American Bar Association (ABA) has a model act outlining **children's rights to notice & to attend & participate in all hearings related to their case.**
- The National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC)'s standards for representing children in D&N cases indicate that **in most circumstances, children should attend significant hearings.**

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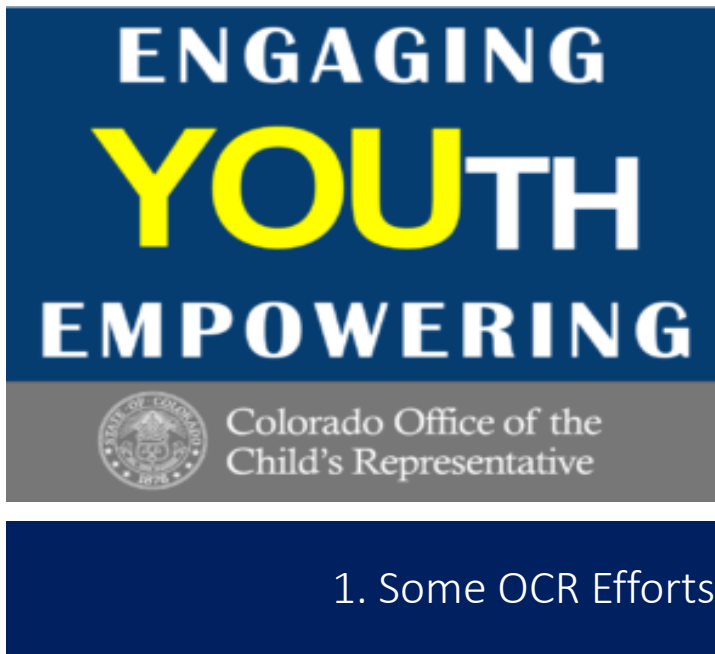
7. E&EY is a part of GAL evaluations.

- Reference interviews.
- Court observations: child/youth present, GAL addressed efforts made to get child/youth to attend court, child/youth given a chance to address the court, & GAL stated child/youth's position.

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- a. Trainings (you are at one)
- b. GRID – Children in Court Fact Sheet (resource table)
- c. GRID- Children in Court Fact Sheet (resource table)
- d. Litigation Toolkit Resource Page (materials)
- e. Bill of Rights (resource table)
- f. List of Services (resource table)
- g. Focus Groups
- h. Surveys (resource table)
- i. Survey Cards (resource table)

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2. Some Contractor Efforts



- a. Fidget spinner business cards
- b. Children's books
- c. *What Happens to Me Now?*

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3. WHAT ARE YOUR E&EY IDEAS AND PLANS?



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[illegible]

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E&EY Resources

- Children in Court Fact Sheet in the GRID.
- Children's Rights Fact Sheet in the GRID.
- E&EY Resource page.
- Staff Attorney Liaisons.

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