

**CHILD AND ADULT PROTECTION UNIT  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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**“Legal Issues for Foster Parents: Working within the Juvenile Court System:  
Permanency Planning, TPR and Adoption”**

1. Cast of characters: Who are all these people ?
  - Juvenile Court Judges: Bernard, McGann: both will soon rotate to the Family Division of the Circuit Court. Judges McHugh and McGuckian are retired judges, filling in until the new judges are appointed by the governor.
  - Parties in a CINA case: child, mother, father or putative father, Child Welfare Services social worker.
  - CASA : Court Appointed Special Advocate
  - CWS attorney : Office of the County Attorney or contract attorneys for OCA.
  - Parent’s attorney: Office of the Public Defender or private attorney
  - Child’s attorney: Each child is appointed an attorney. Siblings may have the same attorney or different attorneys. Three groups have contracts with the state to represent children: Legal Aid Bureau, Inc, Judith Silberman (Rob Bokman), Lazarus and Burt (Marianna Burt or Taua Blockson).
  
2. Why do they keep calling me?
  - CASA volunteer must gather information, visit the child, and advocate for the child’s best interest in court.
  - Child’s counsel must meet with the child at least before every hearing.
  - Child’s social worker must see the child monthly and see the child in the home at least every three months.
  - Counsel for the Department or an Assistant State’s Attorney may ask the social worker to have the child brought to their office or to court to prepare for a trial.
  
3. Juvenile Court: 1<sup>st</sup> twelve months from Shelter Hearing to Permanency Planning Hearing.
  - Children may attend their own court hearings. Child’s attorney can waive the child’s appearance in court.
  - Shelter Hearing - next business day after removal. The Dept. is now required to notify all relatives “who are able to be contacted” to advise them of the shelter hearing. “Unless good cause is shown, the Court shall give priority to the child’s relatives over non-relatives when ordering shelter
  - Pretrial/Mediation - about 14 days after shelter hearing
  - Adjudication - within 30 days of removal unless continued for good cause. Unless good cause is shown, the Court shall give priority to the child’s relatives over non-