

## My child has been removed from my home. What happens now?

- Call the Attorney that has been assigned to you as soon as you receive their contact information.
- Appear in Court for the Emergency Custody Hearing. DHS will give you the date and time for the hearing.
- Discuss with your attorney whether or not to have a hearing.
- Let your attorney know if you have a visitation schedule from the court, any service referrals, and if you are an Indian Tribe member. Bring you Tribal membership card.
- Bring all documents relevant to the reasons your child was removed.
- Have your attorney help you fill out a pauper's affidavit, a declaration of kinships persons, and the notice of rights.
- Let your attorney know of any relatives or close friends that are good for the placement of your children.
- Take notes during court. Let your attorney listen to the hearing. Set an appointment afterward to meet with your Attorney.

## About Us

The Parent Representation Defense Program was formed June 1, 2020, out of the necessity to provide parents involved in deprived proceedings high quality representation. High quality parent defense is defined by an exceptionally trained attorney working together with a master's level social worker and a parent mentor (a person who has survived these systems) to defend parents.

Science PROVES that the type of representation provided to a PARENT determines if the family is reunified swiftly and safely!



OKLAHOMA  
**PARENT  
DEFENSE**  
TEAM

[ProBono.net/ok/PDT](https://ProBono.net/ok/PDT)

LEGAL AID SERVICES  
OF OKLAHOMA, INC.   
*Making Equal Justice for All a Reality*

LSC | America's Partner  
for Equal Justice  
LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

**Important!** Each case is different. This brochure gives you general legal information, not specific legal advice.

Revised 9/22

# Parent Representation Defense Program



LEGAL AID   
SERVICES OF  
OKLAHOMA, INC.

## The Parent Representation Defense Program at LASO

Represents low income parents who have become involved in the juvenile deprived court system in Tulsa County, Oklahoma.

### How do I access a parent attorney?

- Our parent attorneys are appointed by the juvenile court when children are removed from their parent's home;
- Parents will have their first hearing 48 business hours after a removal from their home. This is called an Emergency Custody Hearing or Showcause;
- The parent should fill out a pauper's affidavit at this hearing to find out if they qualify to keep their court-appointed attorney.

## Tulsa County Family Center for Juvenile Justice

500 West Archer, Tulsa, OK 74103

918-596-5960

### Tips: Appearing in Court

- **Arrive on Time:** arrive EARLY to each court hearing.
- **Dress Appropriately:** a dress code is enforced, even though juvenile court is less formal.
- **Cell phone:** must be turned off, not just on silent.
- **Listen carefully:** listen to the Judge, your Attorney, and DHS case worker.
- **Leave small children with a caregiver:** you will have to wait for your hearing. This can sometimes run longer than expected.
- **Speaking in Court:** Your attorney is there to speak for you! Please let them know what you want said in court. If you want to speak in court, ask your attorney and the Court for permission.
- **Documents:** Keep a copy of every document from your case in a folder.
- **Communicate:** Keep your address and phone number up to date with the Court, your Attorney, and DHS case worker. Call your Attorney with questions.
- **Parent Defense Team:** Communicate with the Parent Defense Team weekly, if you have them.

### Understanding your Rights and Responsibilities

- If you are low income you have the right to an attorney and to consult with your attorney outside of court;
- Request visitation/family time with your children, to bring gifts, send mail and make phone calls to your children unless limited by the Court;
- You may get copies of all the documents in your case, including your Treatment Plan;
- You will receive notice of any Court action that affects your children;
- You may participate in court hearings with your Attorney's help;
- You may appeal some decisions of the Court;
- You should request an interpreter, if needed;
- You may stay informed about your children's placement, health, development, behavior, and school activities;
- You should work with the services on your treatment plan;
- You should maintain contact with your Attorney and DHS caseworker;
- You have the responsibility to advocate for yourself in a way others will listen to you.