

# Youth Court Questionnaire (Under 19)

This questionnaire was designed as a way for you to inform the Judge handling your case of your specific situation. The information you provide is strictly voluntary. The more details you share, the better the Judge is able to make the best decision in your case. However, you do not have to answer every question.

To make sure this questionnaire gets to the proper Judge:

1. Give it to your Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer, Caseworker, Foster Parent, Foster Care Specialist, or your personal attorney
2. Bring it to your next hearing

**Under current law, the Judge, your mother and/or father, Guardian Ad Litem, caseworker and the county attorney are allowed to view your answers.**

The Judge handling your case may ask questions regarding the information you provide.

## Youth Court Information

### General Information

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender Identity \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_ Court Location (City and/or County) \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's Name (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

### Current Situation

1. Do you feel safe where you are living? Yes No  
If no, who or what makes you feel unsafe?

Do you feel comfortable where you are living? Yes No

2. If you got to choose, where or with whom would you want to live and why?

3. If you are not living together, do you get quality time with your siblings? Yes No

4. Are your needs being met (getting enough to eat, having enough clothing, proper hair care items, etc?)  
Yes No  
If no, what do you need?

5. Do you have any concerns about your dental, vision, physical, or mental health that you want the Judge to know about? Yes No  
Below please list your concerns:

6. Are you in counseling/therapy? Yes No  
If you are attending therapy, is it helpful? Yes No  
If no, why not?

Do you have feelings or issues you need help explaining or understanding? Yes No

7. Do you take medicine?      Yes                      No  
If yes, do you know what it is for?

If yes, do you feel it is helping you?              Yes              No

8. What is your favorite thing about school? (class, lunch, friends, etc.)

What do you **not** like about school?

9. Are you participating in activities at school or elsewhere (sports, band, art club, dance, etc.)?      Yes              No  
If yes, what are you doing?

If no, are there activities that you want to participate in, but have not been able to? Is there something getting in the way, such as money?

10. Is there an activity you are currently involved in, but would prefer **not** to be? Why?

11. Do you currently have a job?              Yes                      No  
If no, would you like a job? Is there something getting in the way?

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## Case Information

12. Which of these people/groups have you seen or talked to in the last month:

Sibling(s)	CASA Volunteer	GAL
Caseworker	Therapist or Counselor	
Mom	Dad	Mentor
Other		

14. Is there someone you're **not** talking to who you want to be?      Yes                      No  
If yes, explain

13. Is there someone you would prefer **not** to be in communication with?      Yes                      No

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A **Team Meeting** is a gathering of professionals, family, and your advocates to discuss your court case, progress, and any concerns or setbacks.

15. Do you attend your team meetings?

Yes                      No  
If no, why not?

Do you feel your concerns are being addressed?

Yes                      No                      Sometimes  
If no or sometimes, explain

Do you feel comfortable speaking at team meetings?

Yes                      No  
If not, what makes you uncomfortable?

16. Do you feel your team has your best interests in mind?

Yes                      No  
If not, what interest is being neglected?

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A **Case Plan/Court Report** is a document that your DHHS caseworker makes and updates for most court hearings. It includes the services provided to you and your family and goes over what has happened since the last hearing.

17. Has someone reviewed the Case Plan/Court Report with you?                      Yes                      No

If yes, who?

18. Do you have questions or concerns about your case plan?                      Yes                      No

If yes, what questions or concerns do you have?

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A **GAL Report** is a document written by the Guardian ad Litem, who is an attorney representing you and your best interests, to update the court on your case and provide the Judge with your perspective, wants, and needs.

19. Has your GAL reviewed their recommendations with you?                      Yes                      No

20. Do you have questions or concerns about your GAL's recommendations?                      Yes                      No

If yes, what questions or concerns do you have?

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In a **Court Hearing**, the Judge is given information and updates on your family, which helps the Judge make decisions about your safety and the things you need

21. Have you been to a court hearing before?

Yes                      No  
If no, why not?

23. How would you prefer to participate in your court hearings?

Attend in person                      Attend virtually (by Zoom, for example)  
Write a letter                      This youth court form

22. Has your GAL talked with you about the different ways you can participate in your court hearings?

Yes                      No

24. Is there anyone you want attending your next court hearing with you?                      Yes                      No

If yes, who?

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A **Court Order** is a written order from the Judge after the court hearing.

25. Do you receive copies of your court orders?

Yes                      No                      Sometimes

27. Do you understand your court orders?

Yes                      No

26. Do you want to receive a copy of your court order?

Yes                      No

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An **Independent Living Plan** is a written plan to prepare you for living on your own once you have left foster care. The plan may include goals for completing education, finding a job, finding affordable housing, managing your money, etc. If you are over 14, you should have a plan.

28. Do you have an Independent Living Transition Plan?  
Yes                      No                      I Don't Know

30. Do you feel secure with your transition plan?  
Yes                      No  
If no, how can we assist you to feel more secure?

29. Have you been involved in creating the plan?  
Yes                      No

31. Do you have a Driver's license?                      Yes                      No  
If no, do you need help getting one?                      Yes                      No

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### Personal Concerns/Goals

32. What are your plans for the future?

Do you want more information on careers/college/trades?                      Yes                      No

33. Do you have fears or worries about how things are going?

34. How can the Judge or other people in your case help you with your goals?

35. What else would you like the court to know?