

Youth Court Questionnaire (Lancaster County)

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?

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		

Is there someone you would prefer **not** to be in communication with?

13. Is there someone you're **not** talking to who you want to be? Yes No

If yes, explain

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

14. 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?

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

Yes No
If not, what interest is being neglected?

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.

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

If yes, who?

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

If yes, what questions or concerns do you have?

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.

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

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

If yes, what questions or concerns do you have?

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

20. Have you been to a court hearing before?

Yes No
If no, why not?

22. 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

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

Yes No

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

If yes, who?

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

24. Do you receive copies of your court orders?

Yes No Sometimes

26. Do you understand your court orders?

Yes No

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

Yes No

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.

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

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

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

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

Personal Concerns/Goals

31. What are your plans for the future?

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

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

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

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