

FOSTER CARE CASES

Key People in the Court Process



The Judge

The role of the judge is to preside over the case and make decisions that are based on evidence and that are in the best interests of your child.



Clerk of Court for the Culpeper County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court

The Clerks' office is available to answer any questions you may have pertaining to the court's policies and procedures.



Child Protective Services Family Specialist

A Child Protective Services Family Specialist investigates reports of alleged abuse and neglect and provides services to prevent future abuse and neglect.



Foster Care Family Specialist

The role of Foster Care Family Specialist is to work with you, your child, family members and your other supports to resolve the issues that brought you to court.



Attorney for the Department of Family Services

The attorney for the Department of Family Services assists the Child Protective Services (CPS) workers with filing the proper legal documents with the court, representing the CPS workers in the hearings you will attend, and presenting evidence to the court to support the Department of Family Services' position.



Attorney for the Child - Guardian ad litem

The role of the Guardian ad litem (GAL) is to represent the child's best interests in court. The GAL conducts their own investigation, which involves speaking to your child in a manner that's appropriate for their age and development, and reviewing medical, school, and other records.



Attorney for the Parent

Once a petition is filed that alleges your child needs services or has been abused or neglected, your legal status as a parent for that child may be affected and it is strongly recommended that you be represented by a lawyer.