

Child Welfare Law Orientation

Parent and Caregiver Panel

Hon. Wendy J.N. Klicko – Facilitator

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

TO LEARN FROM THOSE
WHO ARE IN THE TRENCHES

24/7

PANEL MEMBERS:

- Rachel Belanger – Parent
- Samantha Mueller – Parent
- Mark Owen – Relative Caregiver
- Shannon Reagan-Shaw – Foster Parent

Their backgrounds, including as much of their “story,” if anything, that they feel comfortable sharing

QUESTION 1

Describe for us a positive experience you had in court or with the court system.

What made the situation or experience memorable?

QUESTION 2

Describe for us a less than positive experience you had in court or with the court system (without naming names).

What made the situation or experience memorable?

Right to Participate

- Relative caregivers and foster parents have a right to receive notice of all hearings in CHIPS, JIPS, delinquency, and TPR cases.
- Right to be heard at hearings by being permitted to make a written or oral statement during the hearing or to submit a written statement prior to the hearing.
- See §§ 48.27(3)(a), 48.42(2g)(am) & 938.27(3)(a).

QUESTION 3

Were you given an opportunity to speak in court and/or ask questions in court?

How did that go?

QUESTION 4

Based on your case or courtroom experiences what are things that judicial officers or attorneys (including Guardians ad Litem) can do to support parents and caregivers?

QUESTION 5

Do you have experience with family interaction/family visitations?

How did they go? What worked well and what did not work well?

QUESTION 6

Any thoughts on the permanency planning process?

QUESTION 7

Any thoughts on the termination of parental rights process?

QUESTION 8

Do you have any experiences with caseworker engagement that you would like to share?

General Questions

Any questions from any judges or any court commissioners?

Closing Thoughts

Any closing thoughts from our panel members?