

## TEAM PLAYERS:

- You
- Parents or Guardians
- The Judge
- Attorneys
- Caseworkers
- Your Advocate (Best Interest)
- Foster Parent(s)\Caregiver(s)
- Therapist(s)



The Trauma Court has dedicated lawyers and team members who care about you and your family. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way.



## ABOUT US

The 309th Trauma Court was created in 2023 to provide families with the assistance they need to navigate Court in the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) system.

## OUR MISSION

To reduce the trauma of families, involved with the DFPS system by providing you with knowledge of the Court process and the players involved with your case.

## CHILD RESOURCES

Please scan the QR Code below to view a complete list of the Rights of Children and Youth in Foster Care.



**309th Trauma Court**  
Harris County Civil Courthouse  
201 Caroline  
16th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002  
713-274-4520



Judge Linda Marie  
**DUNSON**



**309TH  
TRAUMA  
INFORMED  
COURT**



Scan the QR Code to visit the 309th Trauma Court website Information and Resources.

## What to Expect in Court

- ✓ An Emergency Hearing to Determine Safety Issues
- ✓ Attorneys Appointed at Show Cause to Determine any danger to Placement of Children
- ✓ A Status Hearing will inform Parents/Guardians of steps they have to take to get children back home.
- ✓ A Permanency Hearing within 6 Months to 9 Months to check on the progress of Parents and Children well-being.
- ✓ Mediation is necessary in order to try and resolve issues
- ✓ Trial

## Notes and Important Numbers

My Caseworker:

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My Attorney:

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My Child Advocate:

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Family:

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Notes:

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## Children Bill of Rights While in DFPS Care

Children have a right to:

- A Right to know why they are in foster care and what will happen to me.
- A Right to good care and treatment that is safe and healthy in a comfortable environment.
- A Right to be told the Rules, treated fairly and be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- A Right to be placed with or have regular visits with siblings, family or friends.
- A Right to privacy, to receive mail and phone calls from caseworkers, attorneys, family and friends.
- A Right to have clothes, personal care, hygiene and grooming products like other children.
- A Right to not be hit, spanked, threatened, humiliated, or isolated by force.
- A Right to see my caseworker, my attorney, my Judge and go to court and obtain information about my case.
- A Right to good medical, dental, vision and mental health care that meets my needs.
- A Right to not be forced to take unnecessary medications.
- A Right to make calls, reports or complaints about my treatment in foster care.



## Team Player Roles

### Parents or Guardians

Receives instruction from the Court so you can be returned home.

### You

Always be on your best behavior and go to school. Tell your Attorney if you are in a good place and if you want to go home or be placed with family.

### The Judge

The Judge will decide if you go home, if you are safe, and if or when you see your parents and family.

### Attorneys

The Attorney will inform the Court of what you want.

### Caseworkers/PALS Workers

The Caseworker provides the resources needed by you and your parents, so you can go home.

### Caregiver/Your Advocate

They look out for your Best Interest.

### Therapist

Therapists look out for your social and mental health needs.

