

Parent's Rights & Responsibilities

As a parent of the dependency action you have the following rights:

- You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford one, the court will appoint one to you.
- You have the right to admit or deny the allegations made about you and your family.
- You have the right to be notified about all court hearings.
- You have the right to an interpreter if you do not understand English. The court provides interpreters for youth and families in court.
- You have the right to talk to your social worker and your attorney. If they are unavailable when you call, leave a message with a phone number where you can be reached or try them again. Keep track of the best times to call them.
- You have a right and a responsibility to visit your child.

These are your responsibilities:

- Take this court action seriously.
- Attend the court hearings and meetings.
- Comply with your treatment plan. If you cannot make an appointment, call your social worker and treatment provider ahead of time.
- Stay in touch with your attorney and social worker. You are responsible for providing them with your current address and phone number.
- Be aware of your court-ordered services. Keep track of your appointments in writing. Following through with your services increases the likelihood of your child being returned to your care.