"YOUTH IN COURT" BOOKLET

Engaging youth in the process of their CINA court hearings is an important system goal. Because youth who do not understand the system are less likely to be engaged than those who are knowledgeable about the legal process, it was decided to develop written materials to acquaint youth of an appropriate age with the overall system. A subcommittee was formed under the auspices of the Court Improvement Project to address this matter. The members represented the court, Office of Children's Services (OCS), Office of Public Advocacy, and related agencies.

In drafting the booklet, the subcommittee reviewed products in use by other states, consulted our local foster youth alumni association (Facing Foster Care in Alaska), and tapped the expertise of tribal representatives. The OCS Director provided the committee with resources from the State Public Information Department to do the layout and content arrangement of the proposed booklet. The resulting booklet provides information from a youth perspective, reflecting the experience and concerns of all youth, including Alaska Native youth.

The Court Improvement Committee funded the production costs.

Youth Court Guide <u>https://www.ffcalaska.org/uploads/4/4/8/2/44826273/youthcourtguide_web.pdf</u>

Youth Court Guide Hearing - Checklists https://www.ffcalaska.org/uploads/4/4/8/2/44826273/youthcourtguide_hearingchecklists.pdf