

PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE INFORMATION SHEET

Here is a list of the people and professionals that may be working with you and your child:

YOUR ATTORNEY represents you.

Please remember that an attorney has been appointed for you, pending the approval of the financial affidavits submitted by you. You need to meet with that attorney before the Pre-Hearing Conference so that the attorney is prepared to present your wishes and protect your rights. You need to contact the Madison County Court at (402) 454-3311, extension 215, to obtain the name and contact information for the attorney appointed to you. A financial affidavit is attached and must be completed and brought to the Pre-Hearing Conference.

If you are eligible for a court appointed attorney, the attorney appointed by the Court will continue to represent you. You do have the right to hire your own attorney, or you can choose not to have an attorney. If you are going to hire your own attorney, or if you choose not to have an attorney, you must make that known at the Pre-Hearing Conference.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM is an attorney that looks out for the best interest of your child while you are working with the Department of Health and Human Services and going to Court.

COUNTY ATTORNEY is the State's attorney who files the case involving your child.

FACILITATOR is a person who will try to help everyone reach an agreement on what needs to be done and how, before the Court Hearing begins.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CASE WORKER will work with you to help you take care of the safety concerns that led to law enforcement's removal of your child. The caseworker will also help you set up visitation when the safety of your child can be insured.

The Pre-hearing Conference is a meeting for all parties to discuss the case before the Court Hearing.

Following the Pre-Hearing Conference, any agreements that were made will be presented to the Judge for approval. If there are any issues that could not be agreed upon, the Judge will decide those issues at an appropriate time. When the hearing is over, you may have information about placement, visitation, what you need to do, and when the next Court Hearing will be.

At the Pre -Hearing Conference, **please be prepared to discuss** the following:

- If your child has any special needs;
- If you have any special needs;
- If you have any family that would be willing to take care of your child;
- Where you would like your child to stay until the things that need to be done are finished;

- If your child is of Indian decent is your child enrolled or eligible to be enrolled in any federally recognized Indian Tribe;
- The name of your child's birth parents and how they can be contacted.
- How to contact you.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS TO THE PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE:

- Court orders or agreements that you have concerning custody of your child;
- Court orders or agreements that you have concerning child support for your child;
- A most recent pay stub from your employer or other income information; and,
- The completed financial affidavit that you received.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Pre-Hearing Conference or Court Hearing, please ask your attorney.