



Youth Court Questionnaire - under 19

This questionnaire was designed as a way for you to inform the judge handling your case of your specific situation. The information you provide is strictly voluntary. The more details you share, the better the judge is able to make the best decision in your case. However, you do not have to answer every question.

To make sure this questionnaire gets to the proper judge:

1. Send it online at hearmyvoice.throughtheeyes.org **(Coming Soon!)**
2. Give it to your Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) or Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer
3. Bring it to your next hearing
4. Mail it to the Clerk of the Court in your city or county

Under current law, the judge, your mother and/or father, Guardian Ad Litem, caseworker and the county attorney are allowed to view your answers.

The judge handling your case may ask questions regarding the information you provide.

If you have questions or need assistance in completing the questionnaire, contact Project Everlast at 402.384.4670 or crockwell@nebraskachildren.org.

Youth Court Information

General Information

First Name

Last Name

Age

Today's Date

Court Location (City and/or County)

Judge's Name (if known)

List the name(s) of anyone who helped you fill out this form and their connection to you

Current Situation

Are you satisfied with your current placement? Yes No

If no, why not?

Where would you want to live and why?

Do you feel safe at your current placement? Yes No

If no, who or what makes you feel unsafe?

Are your basic needs being met (getting enough to eat, having enough clothing, etc.)? Yes No

If no, explain

Describe any current dental or physical health problems

If you have any dental or health problems, are you receiving treatment? Yes No

If no, why not?

Describe any current mental health problems (depression, anxiety, attention problems, thoughts of hurting yourself, problems sleeping or eating, etc.)

Are you in counseling/therapy? Yes No

If you are attending therapy, is it helpful? Yes No

If no, why not?

Do you take medicine? Yes No

If yes, do you know what it's for? Yes No

If yes, what?

Are you currently attending school? Yes No

If no, why are you not in school?

If yes, which school?

If yes, how are things going? What are some of the things you like doing?

Are you participating in extracurricular activities (sports, band, art club, etc.)? Yes No

If no, why not? Is there something getting in the way?

If yes, what are you doing and how is it going?

Are you currently working? Yes No

If no, why not?

If yes, where are you working, how often and how is it going?

Case Information

Which of these people/groups have you seen or talked to in the last month: Mom Dad Foster Parents Sibling(s)

CASA Volunteer GAL Caseworker Therapist or Counselor Teacher(s)

Is there someone you're not talking to who you want to be? Yes No

If yes, explain

A **Team Meeting** is a gathering of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) or the foster care agency, your family and you to discuss services that will be provided.

Do you attend your team meetings? Yes No Sometimes

If no, why not?

Do you feel comfortable speaking at team meetings? Yes No

If no, what makes you uncomfortable?

Do you feel that your concerns are being addressed? Yes No Sometimes

If no, explain

A **Case Plan** is a document that DHHS or foster care agency makes and updates regularly. It includes the services provided to you and your family, and says what needs to happen to reach the goals.

Have you received a copy of your most recent case plan? Yes No Sometimes

If yes, who gave you the copy?

If not, when is the last time you got a copy of the case plan?

Do you understand the case plan? Yes No

Do you have questions about your case plan? Yes No

If yes, what questions?

A **GAL Report** is a document written by the Guardian ad Litem, who is an attorney representing you and your best interests, to update the court on your case.

Do you receive a copy of the GAL report? Yes No Sometimes

If not or sometimes, when did you last get a GAL report?

Do you understand the GAL report? Yes No Sometimes

If not, does your Guardian ad Litem explain it to you? Yes No Sometimes

In a **Court Hearing**, the judge makes the major decisions about you by looking at the progress of you and your parent(s) to make sure you are safe and being provided for.

Have you been to a court hearing before? Yes No

If not, why not?

Do you know when court hearings are happening? Yes No

Is there someone who explains what will be happening at your court hearing? Yes No Sometimes

If yes or sometimes, who explains the hearing to you?

Do you want to attend more court hearings? Yes No

A **Court Order** is a written order from the judge after the court hearing.

Do you receive copies of your Court Orders? Yes No Sometimes

If not, do you want a copy of your Court Orders? Yes No

Would you like the opportunity to speak to the judge in court? Yes No

What would you like to talk about?

Is there anyone you want attending your next court hearing?

Are you uncomfortable with certain people attending your hearing? Yes No

If yes, who and why?

An **Independent Living Plan** is a written plan to prepare for living on your own once you have left foster care. The plan may include goals for completing education, finding a job, finding affordable housing, managing your money, etc. If you are over 16, you should have a plan.

Do you have an Independent Living Transition Plan? Yes No I don't know

Have you been part of creating the plan? Yes No

Do you feel like you are being prepared to become an adult? Yes No

What could you use help with?

Personal Concerns/Goals

What is your biggest concern with how things are going?

What are your plans for your future?

How can the judge or other people in your case help you with your goals?

What else would you like the court to know?

Is there something you would prefer to share with someone in private? Yes No