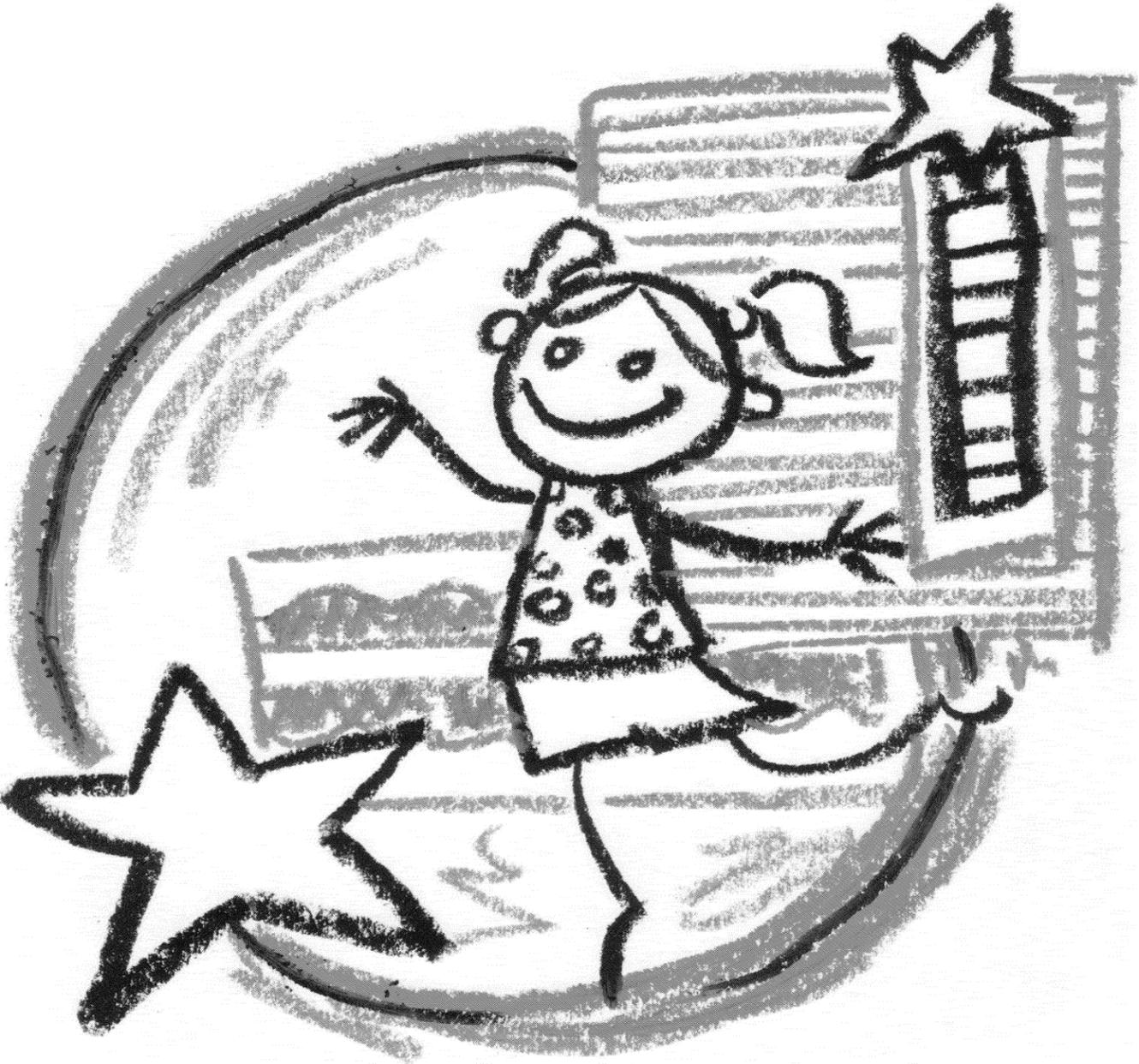


Going to Court

A Guide for Iowa's Young Children



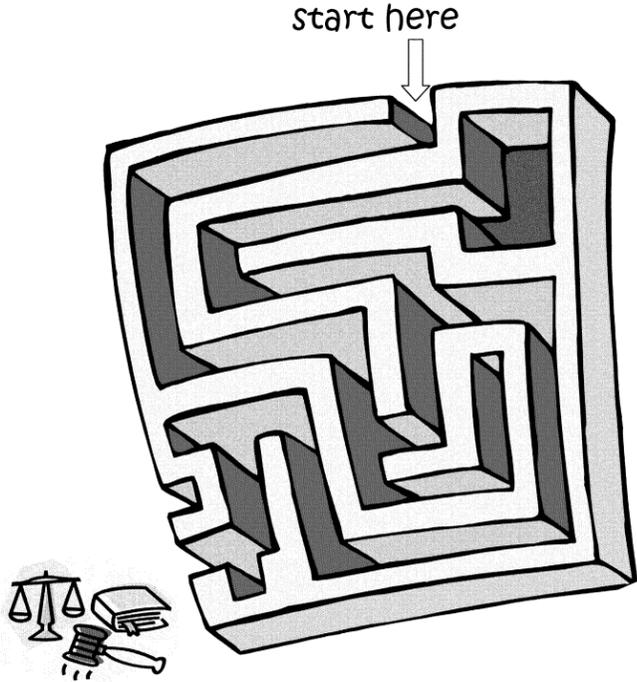
Word Search

Circle the words listed below.

R	Y	F	C	I	O	L	H
G	H	S	A	F	E	O	W
T	P	N	R	R	M	E	F
R	H	D	E	E	C	V	A
U	E	F	L	V	B	M	M
O	L	U	J	O	S	E	I
C	P	Y	F	L	A	S	L
R	J	U	D	G	E	B	Y
E	D	G	T	J	U	K	M

- SAFE
- HOME
- COURT
- JUDGE
- HELP
- CARE
- FAMILY
- LOVE

Can you find your way to the courtroom?



HOW TO SHARE THIS BOOK WITH A CHILD

Step One: Take a picture of the child you will share this book with and paste it on page three. [3]

Step Two: You can share this book with a child before they go to court for the first time or after they have visited court to help them process the experience.

Step Three: Find a time when you have at least a half hour of relaxed time in a comfortable spot. Make sure you allow time for discussing the questions and experiencing the book together.

This book is designed to introduce a child to juvenile court, the supportive network of people who care about them and want to help them. The goals are to:

- Help a child feel familiar with court and the people who are in court to help them
- Let them know there are people who care about them in this process
- Let them know we know how important their family is to them
- Let them know that there are all kinds of families and there are other kids living with extended family or foster parents

Read this book with a child and encourage interaction; answering the questions posed to explore feelings. Write down the child's answers in their own words. A child loves to hear their own words read back to them as a story.

There are a series of questions throughout the booklet that encourage a child to talk about their situation or feelings. These questions may be covered in more than one reading. Whenever possible, let the child make choices about what they want to talk about and which sections are covered. Encourage children to ask questions themselves. Don't rush this activity, children need time to get involved and to experience and be engaged. Provide encouragement and praise and acknowledge of their involvement.

Acknowledgement

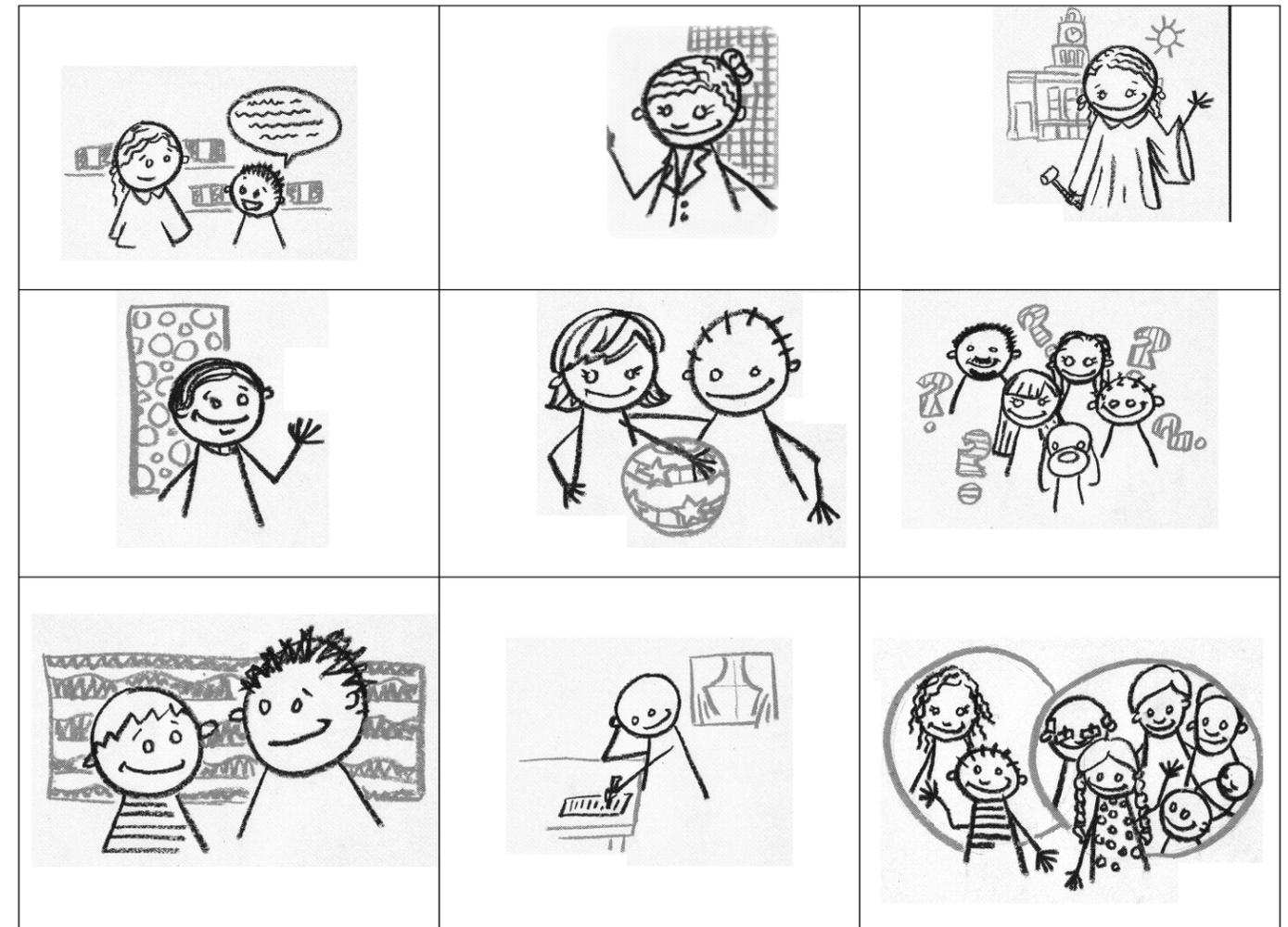
Children's Bureau, Office of Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services
 Polk County Model Court
 New Mexico Court Improvement Project
 Artist: Petra Jensina Lange

A Publication of Iowa Children's Justice

Don't Forget

If you need help, you can always ask your social worker or lawyer questions if you are confused or afraid of what goes on!

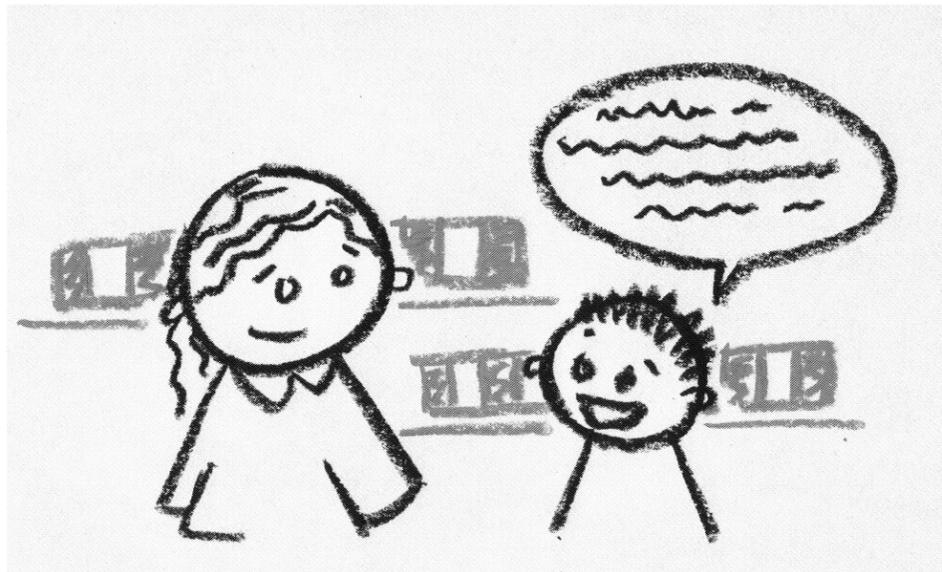
Remember there are lots of people who love you and care about you.



What happens at Court?

The judge listens to people talk about what is happening with your family. The judge decides how to make sure you are safe and decides how to make sure your family gets the help they need.

When will you go home? The judge also decides where you will live and when you can go home. The judge will tell you as soon as the decision is made.



The judge wants to know what you think. If you go to court, the judge may ask you:

How are you doing?

How is school?

What help does your family need?

What would you like to see happen?

Do you need anything?

This book is for one amazing kid!

[your picture goes here]

This booklet will tell you about the court and the people who will help you and your family. It will also tell you about seeing your parents and your brothers and sisters.

There are all kinds of families.

Some have one parent, some have two.



Some have lots of children, some have only one.

Tell me about your family.

What are your mom and dad's names?

What are your brothers and sisters names?

Who else is in your family?

Do you have pets? What are their names?

Going to Court

Court is held in a court room. Do you know where the court house is?

At court, the judge and other people try to help your family work on its problems.

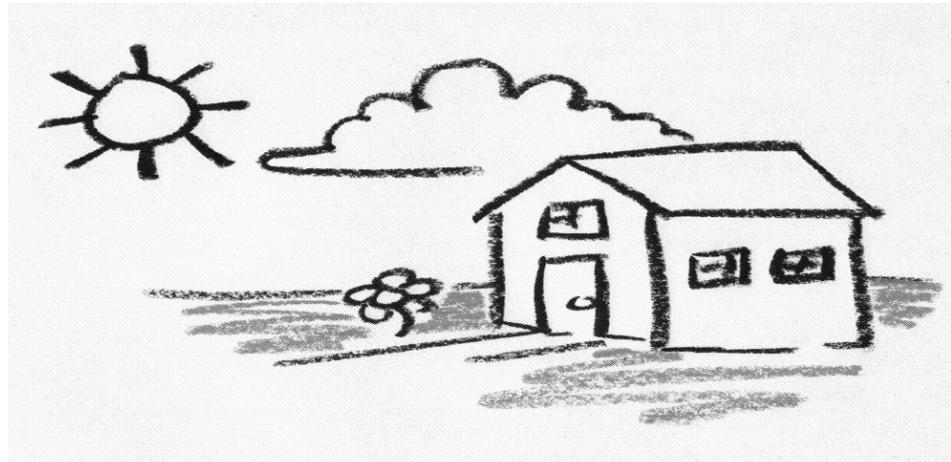


At court, the judge is in charge. Your family has one judge.

Your Family's Judge is _____

How do I get used to my foster home?

It might take you a little while to get used to all the new things in your foster home. You may feel scared or shy to live in a new place. Your social worker and your foster parents want to help you feel at home. Sometimes feeling at home is helped by sharing information.



Ask your foster parents:

What do you do to have fun together? What happens on a weekday? What happens on the week-end? What are the important rules?

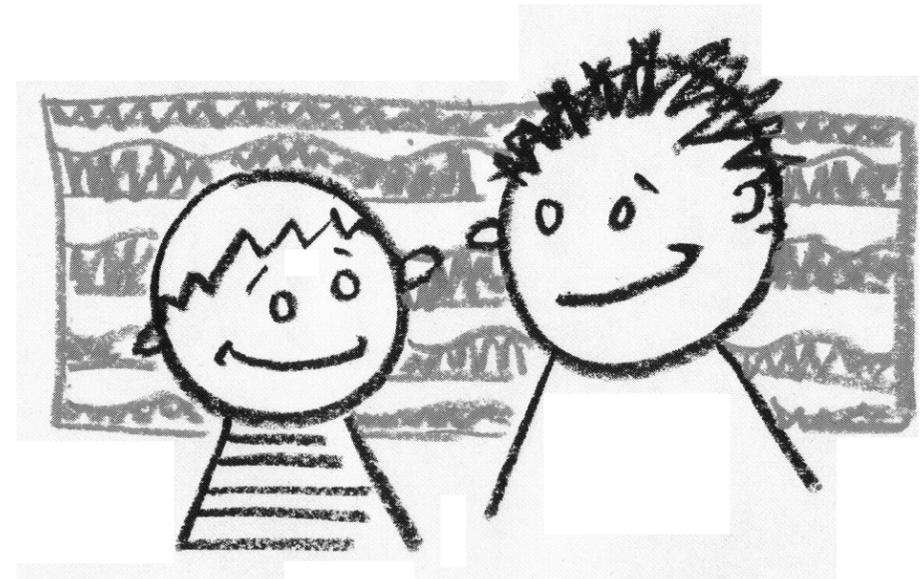
Tell your foster parents:

The activities you did at home and how you had fun together. What helps you go to sleep at night? What foods do you like to eat? What helps you when you feel sad?

Families need to keep kids safe.

All families have problems. Some families need help to learn how to keep their children safe. Some problems mean children cannot live at home. You may have to live with a relative or in a foster home for a while to keep you safe.

Who is the special person you feel safe talking to?



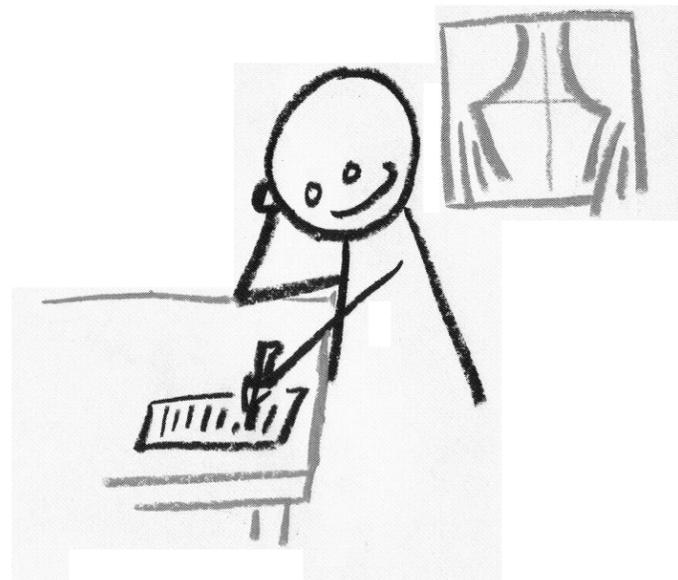
Lots of families go to court.

These families are involved with juvenile court, just like your family. We know how important your family is to you.

What is happening to my mom and dad?

You probably really miss your mom and dad. And they miss you too. Probably the hardest thing about being in foster care is that you can't see your mom or dad whenever you want to.

Ask your social worker if you can call mom or dad when you miss them. Or maybe you could write them a letter.



If it is OK to write: what is the address?

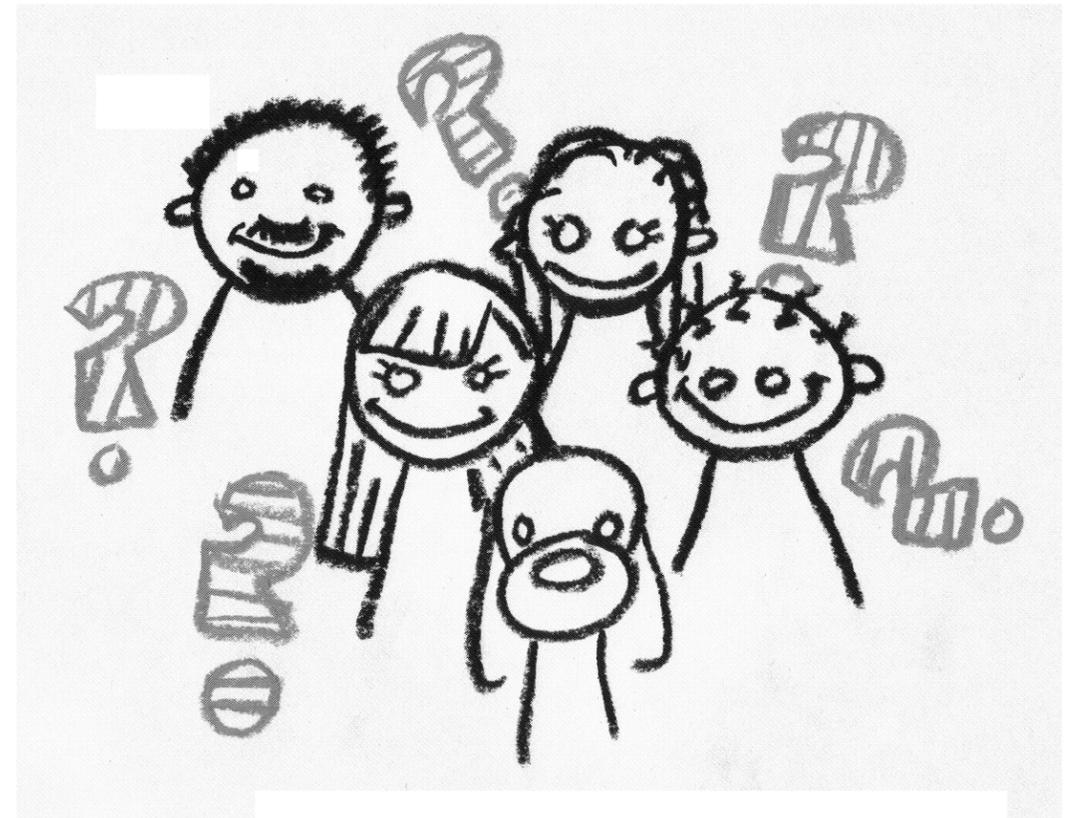
My mom's phone is:

My dad's phone is:

Do you have Foster Parents?

Your foster parents are there to help you. Even though it wasn't their idea for you to live away from your home, they are happy you live with them. They will take care of you till you can go back home and be safe.

Your Foster Parents are _____ phone # _____



What other children live in your foster home?

Are there any pets? What are their names?

Who else is on your team?

Do you have a CASA?

A Casa is eyes and ears for the court, they visit with you and report back to the court.

Your CASA is _____ phone _____

You may have others who work with your family or with you. [in-home worker, therapist, school counselor, etc.]

Who are they?

What do they do?

Tell the TEAM!

What do you want your team to know about you?

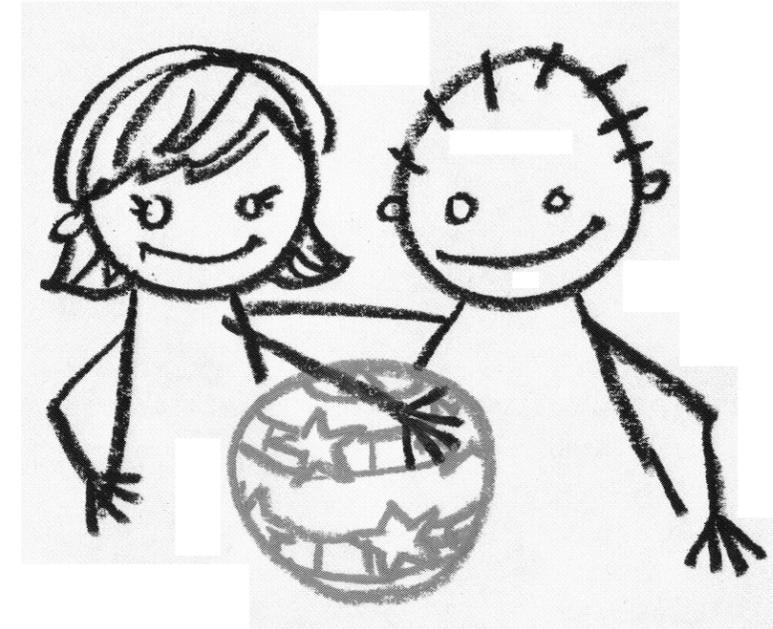
What you want to see happen?

Is there anything you need?

Is there anything your family needs?

What about my brothers and sisters?

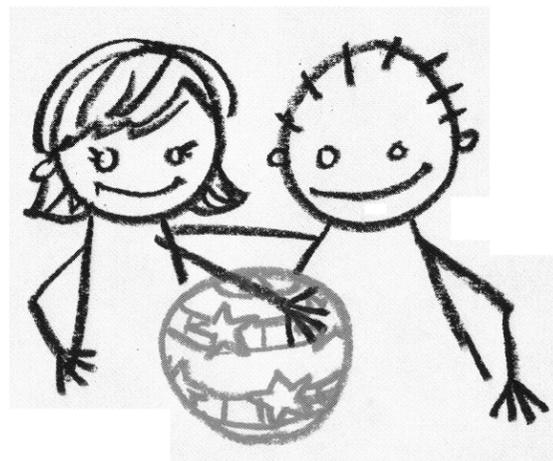
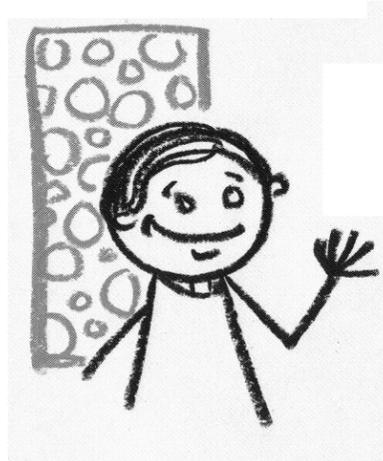
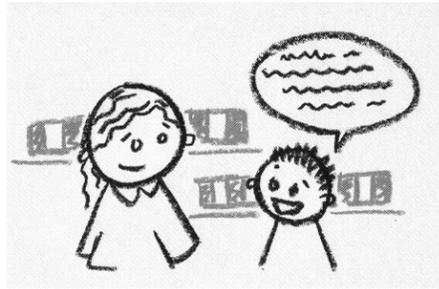
Your social worker will try to make sure you and your brothers and sisters live in the same foster home. But sometimes you may have to live in different places.



If your brothers and sisters don't live with you, you probably miss them a lot. Ask your Social Worker when you can visit them or call them.

What is the phone number where your brothers and sisters live?

You have so many people who care about you!

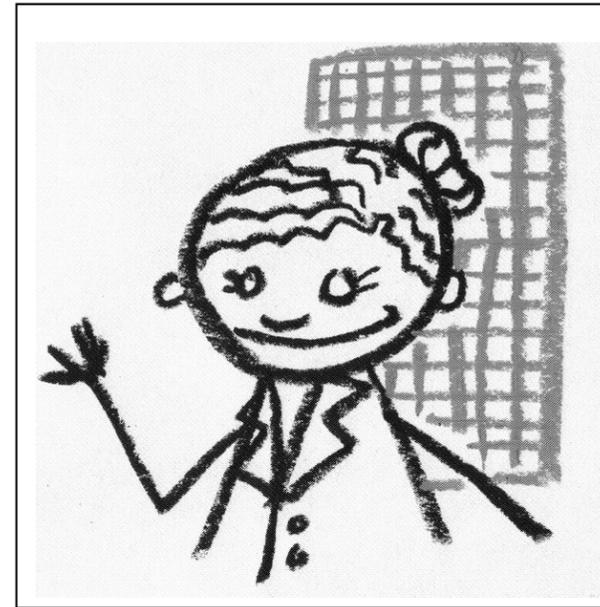


With your family, they make up **YOUR** team of people who want the best for you!

Who are all the people who care about you?

Did you know?

You have your own lawyer?

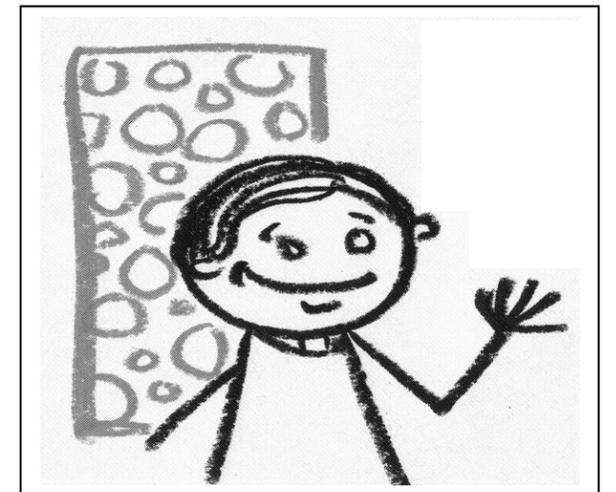


Your lawyer is called a **GAL** [guardian ad litem] and helps the court figure out what is best for you. It is your lawyer's job to visit with you to explain what happens in court.

Your Lawyer is _____ phone _____

You have your own social worker?

Your social worker visits you to see you are OK and tries to help your family with problems.



Your Social Worker is _____ phone # _____