



# Child Welfare Cases

*A social story to help explain child  
welfare / CHINs processes*



Materials available online at  
[www.indianadisabilityrights.org](http://www.indianadisabilityrights.org)

# How to Use a Social Story

Social stories are visual ways to help explain complex processes and ideas to children and to people who benefit from concrete, visual explanations. The social stories can be modified to fit any situation.

## *Tips for using the social story:*

Introduce the story early to help prepare the person for what is going to happen.

If possible, modify the story to fit the needs of the individual. Including specific people or places may be helpful.

Read the social story to the person several times, on several occasions before the event in order to allow the person time to become familiar and process the information.

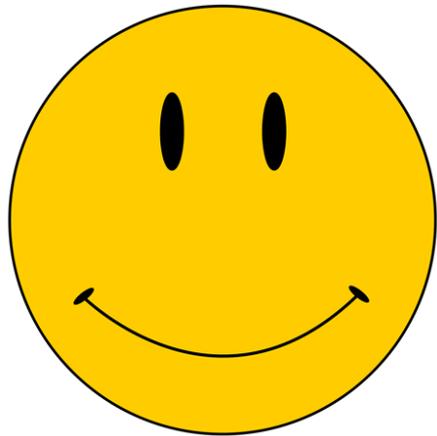
*This social story is for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice.*

*Created August 2017*

I should always know when my family has court. If I want to stay in school and not come to court, that's fine. It is **usually** my decision whether to come or not.



The most important thing to do is to tell  
the truth.



Today, I am going to the Marion County  
Juvenile Justice Center.



I am here because my family needs help,  
not because I am in trouble.

Sometimes kids can  
talk to Judges privately.



If I want to do this, my GAL/CASA can ask  
the court to arrange the meeting before  
the next hearing.

If I am worried about talking in court, I can write a letter.



I will have a Guardian ad Litem (GAL) or a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), who is someone who looks out for me, in court with me.



My parents and others will see any letters I write to the Judge, but it is sometimes easier than speaking in court.

My parents may be in court. Other people  
will be there too.



The Judge may ask me questions about  
how I am doing in school and how I feel  
about where I am living.

