

Assistant Attorney General Staffings

Background Notes

Child welfare casework requires a high amount of time working in juvenile court, criminal court, with law enforcement and criminal defense. The District Attorney will represent the interests of the State of Oregon in juvenile dependency matters. The District Attorney is a county employee who is responsible to see that child abuse and neglect statutes are enforced. The Department of Human Services is a separate party who is responsible to look after the best interest of specific children placed in their custody. The Attorney General's office represents DHS when there is need for legal representation. In cases that remain involved in juvenile court, an AAG (assistant attorney general) will staff or review that case at two different times. Most often this occurs at 4 and at 8 months after jurisdiction has been established. The AAG or in some cases the local District Attorney will also staff cases that are being considered for a termination of parental rights (TPR) proceeding.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Discuss with your supervisor when consultation with an Assistant Attorney General is appropriate.
- Review a referral for a TPR (termination of parental rights) staffing.
- Attend an AAG staffing. Ask what common assignments come out of this staffing.
- Observe another worker being prepared for TPR trial by an AG.
- Observe the same worker testifying at a TPR trial.

Discoveries:

- *What situations allow/require Asst. AG involvement?*
- *What documents need to be located and available for TPR staffings?*
- *How does the worker easily locate these documents?*
- *What was discussed in the TPR staffing?*
- *How well prepared was the worker for the staffing?*
- *What assignments did the worker have after the staffing?*
- *What did the worker need to do to be prepared for the TPR trial?*
- *How did the worker do in the trial under examination?*