

Practice Alert



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Issued by: Children's Division
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Inviting Resource Parents to Court

Dear Children's Division Staff,

Per Children's Division policy in the Child Welfare Manual Section 6 Chapter 20 Subsection 2:

Resource parents are to be notified by the court no later than two weeks prior to all court hearings. This notification may include, but is not limited to, notice of the day and time of the court hearing, the name of the judge hearing the case, the location of the hearing, and the court docket number. Resource parents shall be permitted to attend and be heard at such hearings.

As the licensing worker for a resource parent please ensure the Court is notifying your resource parents at least 2 weeks prior to any court hearing. If the resource parent does not receive notice, provide the information to the resource parent and determine whether any breakdown in communication has occurred. This may involve ensuring updated information has been provided to the court. It is the resource parent's right to attend court and be heard.

Following is the link to the [Caregiver Court Report](#) for resource parents. The caregiver may appear and provide information verbally and/or submit written information to the court. This form will be submitted to the juvenile officer to file with the court. It may be e-filed, e-mailed, or mailed to the Juvenile Officer. The form must be submitted three weeks in advance of the hearing. All parties to the case will have access to the information provided and the caregiver may be called to testify.

The instructions for completion and submission of the form are located on page 3 and page 4 of the form.

The form is posted on Children's Division E-forms. It is a not a Children's Division created form and therefore it does not have a form number. It may be accessed by typing in the title of the form in the search box on E-forms. The form is also available for resource parents on the Children's Division website.

If you have any questions you may email Melissa.J.Selsor@dss.mo.gov

