

What a Child or Youth Can Expect From a Lawyer Appointed by the Counsel for Children

If a lawyer has been appointed to represent you, you can expect the lawyer will:

- Listen to you
- Answer your questions
- Return your phone calls and messages
- Explain things in plain language
- Meet with you before going to court or other proceedings
- Meet with you in a place that is comfortable for you
- Go to all court or other proceedings in your case
- Tell the judge or mediator what you think and what you want
- Explain what they can't do for you

Your lawyer should listen to what you have to say and ask questions about your views so that they can properly prepare your case.

Meeting with Your Lawyer

The lawyer we appoint for you should meet with you in person at a place that is comfortable for you. He or she may give you a business card and should tell you:

- Their name, phone number and email address;
- That you can ask for a different lawyer or refuse to have a lawyer;
- What their role is as your lawyer and how they can help your voice be heard in proceedings;
- What your legal rights and options are, including discussing whether you want to attend proceedings;
- About the legal process and what may happen in court, mediation or meetings;
- About confidentiality and what that means; and
- About how important it is for you to tell them the truth about your situation.

Services provided to youth and children by lawyers through the Counsel for Children are free of charge.

Q. What will your lawyer do after your hearing or proceeding?

A. Your lawyer should talk with you again and explain what happened and what it means for you.