

AIYANA'S JOURNEY

RIGHTS & ROLES BOOK



When grown-ups are worried about a kid's safety and think their family needs help, they will open up something called a case. They will then work together with the family to try and make things better. These grown-ups are part of something called child welfare. Many different grown-ups work in the child welfare system, and this book will help you understand who they are and what they must do to make sure kids are safe and well cared for.

Things like this happen to other Native and non-Native kids and families, too. But every situation is different. In some cases, the grown-ups and families might also go to court, which is a place where grown-ups work together and talk about how to keep kids safe at home.

No matter what is happening for you and your family, please remember that none of this is your fault and you are not alone. You can ask for help from the grown-ups working with you, like the ones in this book or in Aiyana's story, or other grown-ups in your family or community that you trust.

WHAT IS THEIR JOB?

ROLES IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

In this section you will learn about the jobs of the different grown-ups you might meet.

These grown-ups may be from your tribe, from another tribe, or work for the local, state, or federal government.

You will find out what your job is, too!



CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS)

The job of the grown-ups at CPS is to try to make sure kids are safe. They might ask you questions to help them learn about what happened. They work with other grown-ups called lawyers, who might talk about your family and how best to keep you safe in court.

ICWA WORKER

If your family goes to the state court, the ICWA worker will go to court, too, to talk about what your tribe wants for you and your family, and how the tribe will help you.

POLICE

A police officer's job is to help keep people safe. They might ask you questions to help them learn about what happened. Some police officers wear a uniform, but others wear regular clothes.

There are grown-ups whose job is to help you, if you have to go to court. They might have different names depending on where you live.

- **ATTORNEY FOR CHILD (AFC)**
- **GUARDIAN AD LITEM (GAL)**
- **COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA)**
- **FAMILY/VICTIM ADVOCATE**

RESPONDENT

When CPS brings someone to court because they think the person is hurting or not taking care of a child, that person is called “the respondent.”

SOCIAL WORKER

Social workers are there to help you and your family. They might work for CPS, or another place.

JUDGE

The judge is the person who makes decisions in the court to help you and your family.

ATTORNEY/LAY ADVOCATE

This person helps people tell their side of what happened and ask the judge for what they want.

JUDGE'S HELPERS

The court attorney and the court clerk (or assistant) help the judge.

BAILIFF/COURT SECURITY

This person tries to make sure everyone in the court is safe.

COURT REPORTER

The court reporter's job is to write down everything people say in the courtroom.

YOU

Your job is to talk to the grown-ups about what's been happening, and how you feel.



DID YOU KNOW?



...that when your family has a child welfare case, the grown-ups have to make sure that you are healthy and well cared for?

You are allowed to ask as many questions as you want! If you don't know what's going on, ask!

You should always feel safe. If you feel scared, tell a grown-up that you trust.



THE PEOPLE I KNOW

You can use this page to write down the names
and information of the people you meet!

CPS Worker(s)

Contact Info: _____

CPS Lawyer(s)

Contact Info: _____

ICWA Worker

Contact Info: _____

Attorney for Child/GAL/CASA

Contact Info: _____

Family/Victim Advocate

Contact Info: _____

Social Worker/Therapist

Contact Info: _____

Judge

Contact Info: _____

Other

Contact Info: _____

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The Center for Court Innovation's Child Witness Materials Project is a collaborative effort between the Center for Court Innovation and Alternate History Comics, Inc. and is supported by cooperative agreement #2018-V3-GX-K069, awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this document are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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The Center for Court Innovation works to create a more effective and humane justice system by performing original research and helping launch reforms around the world.
www.courtinnovation.org

Alternate History Comics is a multiple award-winning publishing company that creates original graphic novels and cultural comic collections.
<http://ahcomics.com>

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The Office for Victims of Crime is committed to enhancing the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims and to providing leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

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The Office of Justice Programs is a federal agency that provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance, and other resources to improve the Nation's capacity to prevent and reduce crime, assist victims, and enhance the rule of law by strengthening the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Its six program offices—the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking—support state and local crime-fighting efforts, fund thousands of victim service programs, help communities manage sex offenders, address the needs of youth in the system and children in danger, and provide vital research and data.



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