

# Assistant Attorney General Staffings

## Background Notes

Child welfare work requires a high level of work in juvenile court, criminal court and with police 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 the 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 we have 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 at 4 and at 8 months after jurisdiction has been established. The AAG will also staff cases that are being considered for a termination of parental rights (TPR) proceeding. For cases in Multnomah County, the District Attorney's office does represent DHS when a TPR proceeding is initiated.

## Tasks / Assignments:

- Discuss with your supervisor when the consultation of 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?*

